



A Weekly Journal of the Chemical and Drug Trades
and of
British Pharmacists throughout the Empire.
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YOUR COLONIAL CONNECTION

Having secured the interest and co-operation of the merchant shipper, the maker of, or dealer in, chemists' goods, naturally looks now for the best method of attracting the buyer in the British Colonies and Dependencies and in foreign countries. The Publisher has foreseen this, and has prepared a booklet showing the most effective and least expensive way to do it. This booklet ought to be in the hands of every manufacturer, exporter, and wholesaler connected with the drug-trade. It can be had for the asking. Incidentally it describes the

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN ISSUE

of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST to be published

ON APRIL 26.

A post-card or telephone message to 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., will secure prompt attention.

SUMMARY.

Being a first glance at the articles and events reported in this Issue.

Articles and Communications.

Further research on *Aconitum lycoctonum* has resulted in the isolation of new principles (p. 35).

The Pharmaceutical Council regard preparations of colchicum as being scheduled poisons. See the article on p. 50.

We comment upon the latest resolution for scheduling hypnotics showing what substances are likely to be included in the terms (p. 49).

Messrs. Salamon and Seaber support Mr. E. J. Parry in his denunciation of adulteration of eucalyptus oil with the amygdalina product (p. 62).

Mr. C. A. Hill's lecture on the function of "The Chemist" in a pharmaceutical works proved to be of interest to all students of pharmacy (p. 34).

Information regarding senna siftings comes to us from Washington (p. 40), and from Bloomsbury Square about commercial powdered senna (p. 46).

An interesting study of the problem as to whether galenical preparations of drugs or their active principles are the better medicinally was communicated to the Pharmaceutical Society by Dr. Jowett this week (p. 45).

National Health Insurance.

New prescription-forms are being issued (p. 36).

Three methods of filing Insurance prescriptions are described on p. 34.

We print reports from twenty-four localities regarding the working and continuance of the dispensing arrangements (pp. 52-54).

We reply to a number of pricing problems, but have more in type, as well as points in practice, which we hope to give next week (p. 54).

We have received from the Commissioners an important statement in regard to the supply of medicines by doctors, either free or on payment (p. 48).

We report the inquiry, in Belfast and Dublin, by the Special Committee which is taking evidence regarding Medical Benefit in Ireland (p. 51).

The supply of tuberculin, vaccines, etc., by chemists is a somewhat complicated subject, which is made clearer by a statement on behalf of the Commissioners, which we print on p. 52.

News of the Week.

We report the results of chemists' applications for wine-licences (pp. 36-37).

The Cape Pharmaceutical Society has elected Mr. J. Sowden as its President (p. 40).

We give more particulars about the recent strike of Buenos Ayres pharmacists (p. 39).

The Easter holiday arrangements of some business houses in London are mentioned on p. 36.

Another conviction of a chemist for selling toilet-articles in the half-holiday hours is reported (p. 41).

Care must be taken in sending postal orders by post in payment of accounts. See the case reported on p. 41.

In connection with the early-closing orders which chemists are obtaining (see pp. 35, 37, and 39), we call attention to a warning on p. 50.

Government laboratory evidence as to the analysis of patent medicines is to be a feature in the renewed inquiry by the Select Committee (p. 55).

Trade and Market Matters.

Further particulars in regard to the find of the largest piece of ambergris on record are given on p. 61.

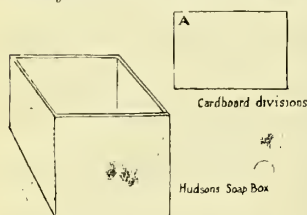
Cod-liver oil provides a sensation among market advances; citric acid, pulv. seidlitz, soda tartarata, almond oil, lemon oil, and fine tragacanth are also higher. Cocaine, codeine, acetyl-salicylic acid, and quicksilver are lower. Menthol, antimony, turpentine, Sudan gum acacia, are easier, and English castor oil, copaiba, copper sulphate, and prussiate of potash are firmer (p. 58).

Ideas on Insurance Dispensing.

The Editor pays for contributions to this column, especially for ideas which have been found beneficial or useful in working the chemists' part of the Insurance Medical Benefit, and in solving difficulties which arise in connection with it.

Filing Insurance Prescriptions.

Carefully remove the lid from a Hudson's soap-box. Twenty-three cardboard divisions are cut from two thin

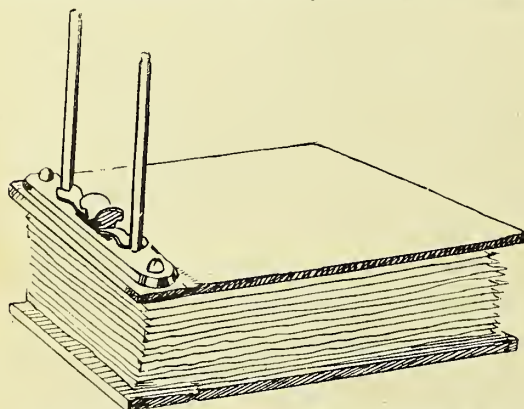


sheets of cardboard (cost $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per sheet), slightly larger than an Insurance prescription-form. Letter on the left-hand top corner, cutting these from C. & D. advertisements. The diagram shows the simplicity of this arrangement, which has a capacity of 1,500 prescriptions.—S. P. Dingle, Bow, London, E.

The following method, while not differing greatly from those already described in the C. & D., may still be of interest to some. Two small bill files are taken, about 5 or 6 in. high, which may be screwed to a common base; or a "Stolzenberg" file, consisting of stout paper covers with two prongs inside, may be used. The method is as follows:

When the scripts are received, or at the end of each day, each half is numbered in the bottom right-hand corner from 1 onwards; any remarks are made thereon with carbon paper, and they are then separated and placed on their respective files. The part to be forwarded to the Commissioners may be left on the file until such time as required for pricing and sending in, or, if too numerous, may be removed and otherwise kept in numerical order. The retained halves, as soon as they total 100, are removed from the file, and an alphabetical list made out on a piece of demy the size of a script, the number of each script being placed opposite to the name. The 100 scripts are then strung twice through the left-hand side, and the prepared index gummed by its left edge to the first script, and the whole bound book form with brown paper and numbered outside 1 to 100, etc., together with the first and last date. This method of indexing may seem somewhat laborious, but the time saved by being able to refer instantly to a script either by date or number is worth the trouble. It has another advantage, in that, if the index is made out commencing at, say, 400, and working back to 301, then the first number after each name (when a person's name occurs more than once in the 100 scripts) gives the last prescription had by that person. Beyond the time employed the cost is practically nil.—F. Bentley (Handsworth).

I find two prescription-files (illustrated below) meet my Insurance requirements very well. Though a little expensive to begin with (they cost 3s. 9d. each from Geo. Waterston & Sons, 33 and 35 George Street, Edinburgh), I think they will pay in the end. Prescriptions as they are received are numbered consecutively with a letter after each



number—viz., 10 X, 124 X, and so on—to distinguish Insurance from private prescriptions. They are then entered in a prescription record, ruled for date, name of patient, number, and price, and placed in the file shown above. The file is absolutely rigid, and unless these clips are pinched the top board goes down, but will not come up without so doing.—J. Gordon Nicholson, 15 Hanover Street, Edinburgh.

The Chemist in Pharmacy.

THIS, in brief, was the subject of the lecture which Mr. Charles A. Hill, B.Sc., F.I.C., delivered under the auspices of the Institute of Chemistry, in the Chemical Lecture Theatre of King's College, on Wednesday evening, March 12. The actual title was "The Function and Scope of 'the Chemist' in a Pharmaceutical Works." The theatre was comfortably filled, the majority present being those for whom the lecture was intended—students and associates of the Institute; but the audience included several ladies and Professor Crossley, Professor Greenish, Messrs. Herbert Jackson, F. C. J. Bird, F. H. Carr, H. Wilson (Southampton), Alan Francis, J. H. Franklin (Manchester), Kenneth Allen, H. W. Gadd (Exeter), E. F. Harrison, H. Martin, A. P. Atkinson, T. N. Morson, E. T. Brewis, Roger Harvey, W. L. Howie, H. Finnemore, Herbert Skinner, and R. R. Bennett.

Mr. Otto Hehner, F.I.C., F.C.S., presided, and, in introducing the lecturer, regretted the absence through indisposition of Professor J. M. Thomson. He explained the object of this course of lectures, and said as regards the subject of the evening that Mr. Hill had been born in it, and none could speak upon it with greater authority than he. Mr. Hill proceeded to deliver the lecture, which was illustrated with lantern pictures of manufacturing plant and an occasional experiment. The lecture occupied an hour, and was divided into four parts—viz., (1) Manufacturing, (2) analytical, (3) investigation, and (4) commercial. We give a digest of Mr. Hill's observations:

The need for a chemical-trained man at the head of all the branches of a pharmaceutical factory is becoming increasingly necessary. To be successful this man must possess considerable initiative and be prepared to stand by his opinion often in the face of decided opposition. There are two points wherein factory work departs from that to which the chemist has been accustomed during his training. These are cost and time, and on the proper appreciation of these depends the success or otherwise of the chemist. Hand in hand with these goes the purity of the products. This purity is all-important and of a twofold character. In the first place, toxic impurities must be reduced to such a point that they do not give rise to any physiological effect; and secondly, the products must present such an appearance as renders them attractive. The manufacturing chemist should prepare his own specifications of his raw materials, and it is the duty of the analytical department to see that these specifications are adhered to.

Simple expedients for the removal of impurities were mentioned, such as the addition of asbestos or kieselguhr to a solution which after the addition of sulphuretted hydrogen contains lead sulphide in a colloidal form. Also the removal of lead from zinc sulphate by crystallising in a zinc tank. When filtering a liquid in a filter-press it is often necessary, and nearly always advantageous, to add either asbestos or kieselguhr to the liquid before pumping it in when the objective is a star-bright filtrate. The lecturer brought out very clearly the advantages which accrue from the use of vacuum plant in the evaporation of large bulk of liquids.

An interesting point was mentioned in connection with the production of so-called feathery crystals. This form of crystal was first obtained on foggy days, owing to the vibration caused by the engines of a neighbouring electric-lighting station. When they were first obtained they were considered a nuisance, but since then a market has been found for them, and now many substances are turned out in this form. The use of centrifugal machines in drying crystals was explained and illustrated. By-products may be either a source of income or loss, as they are treated, and to the proper working of them the chemist would do well to apply all his ability. In regard to the development possible in a pharmaceutical factory, and with special reference to synthetic products, Mr. Hill said he knew of no valid reason why a combination of capital and enterprise should not in a very few years bring about the manufacture in this country of a large number of substances now supplied to us from the Continent.

In dealing with galenicals, he stated that standardisation is even more necessary here than in the case of chemicals, for it is at all times impossible to produce satisfactory preparations from drugs of inferior quality. He explained what standardisation of drugs means, showing its objects and limitations, saying that the procedure does not determine the true medicinal value of the drug. The use of vacuum plant both for evaporating and drying aqueous extracts was advocated, as the low temperature

employed prevents the destruction of the active principles present. In this connection he instanced senna evaporates, those prepared *in vacuo* being more active than those that are not, while cascara sagrada evaporates made *in vacuo* do not contain a bitter resinous substance which is found in evaporates made in air. The filtration of alcoholic and aqueous extracts was next dealt with, the diagrams being exceptionally illuminating.

The analytical aspect of the chemist's work is little different from that he has been trained in. The duty of the analytical department is to keep an eye on the major part of the business of the factory, and it must to some extent justify its existence by finding fault. The analyst must satisfy himself that the article under examination is up to the standard which the prescribing physician has a right to expect. In the case of adulteration a considerable experience of pharmaceutical products is necessary before it is possible to identify the adulterant. Efficient sampling, either by bulking the whole delivery or examining each package, is of primary importance.

The unlimited scope for investigation and pure research in a pharmaceutical factory was touched upon, and the working-up of by-products was mentioned as a fruitful field. As an example of this was mentioned the preparation of benzyl cinnamate from "spent" balsam of tolu. In conclusion, the lecturer made some pertinent remarks on the commercial side of the business from the chemist's point of view, and stated that the successful man in either a chemical or pharmaceutical business is a chemist first and a business man after.

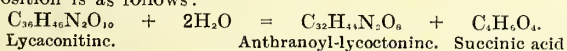
The hearty applause which marked the conclusion of the lecture gave the Chairman his cue in moving a vote of thanks, and he became reminiscent of German pharmacy—the venerable white-bearded man bending over his crucible, blowing a bellows the while; what a contrast with this young man who has been lecturing to us! The point was quickly taken up by the audience. Mr. Hill, in acknowledgment, mentioned that he had been much helped by Mr. Collins and Mr. Cocking, who had prepared the slides.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

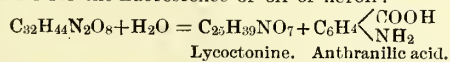
Temperatures under this heading are on the Centigrade scale.

A. New Alkaloid.—Bridel ("Zeit. Allg. Oest. Apoth. Verein," 1913, 603) has isolated an alkaloid from the rhizome of *Menyanthes trifoliata*, which he terms meliatine. It is levorotatory, and is soluble in water, alcohol, and acetone. It melts at 223°. Its formula is $C_{25}H_{29}O_8$.

Aconite Alkaloids.—Schulze and Biertung ("Archiv der Pharm.," 1913, 8) have carried out an exhaustive study of the alkaloids of *Aconitum Lycoctonum*, with the result that they have evolved something like order from the chaos left by different observers with, generally, quite different results. These alkaloids were examined by Einberg in 1887 and by Dohrmann in 1888, as well as by several other chemists, and it appeared clear that two different alkaloids exist in the plant. The formulæ ascribed to them are too numerous to discuss, but it is clear that correct results have now been obtained. The two bases were termed lycacotinine and myocotinine. Lycacotinine is a strong base, and, as a result of thirteen concordant combustions, its formula is now fixed as $C_{28}H_{46}N_2O_{10}$. It is dextrorotatory, $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +42.47^\circ$. Myocotinine is also dextrorotatory, $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +44.79^\circ$. Five concordant combustions showed that its formula was $C_{28}H_{44}N_2O_{10}$ also, but determinations by the freezing-point method showed that this formula must be doubled, so that it is best expressed as $(C_{28}H_{44}N_2O_{10})_2$. By hydrolysis of either alkaloid by means of hydrochloric acid a new alkaloid is obtained, to which the name antraniloyl-lycoctonine has been given. The decomposition is as follows:



The new alkloid is intensely fluorescent in alcoholic or ethereal solution. By hydrolysis with caustic alkali this new body is decomposed into lycoctonine and antranilic acid, which, it will be remembered, is the characteristic body responsible for the fluorescence of oil of neroli:



An Opium Glucoside.—Glucosides closely resembling alkaloids, which have been termed glyco-alkaloids, are known, such as solanin and achillein. A similar body, although not occurring naturally in opium, can be formed by treating morphine in soda solution with aceto-brom-glucose in acetone solution. The resulting glucoside is crystallised from 50-per-cent. alcohol, and forms bitter-tasting needles of the formula $C_{17}H_{19}NO_3 \cdot C_6H_{11}O_5 \cdot H_2O$.

ENGLISH AND WELSH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the iter of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

The Local Government Board has sanctioned the proposal of the Bermondsey Guardians, under the exceptional circumstances, to increase the salary of Mr. J. Bourke, dispenser at the infirmary, from 180*l.* to 190*l.*, rising on January 1, 1914, to 200*l.* a year.

Mr. A. W. Ryder, chemist and druggist, 20 High Street, Rochester, met with a slight accident on March 7. A horse attached to a cab, which had bolted, crashed against his doorway. Hearing the noise Mr. Ryder went to the door, and was struck on the head by a piece of falling wood, which cut his forehead.

At the annual meeting of the Chamber of Trade, held in London on March 7, Mr. R. C. Walshaw, Ph.C., supported a resolution to urge upon the Government the serious necessity for immediately introducing a Bill to prohibit trading on Sundays. Mr. Walshaw added, however, there should be an exception as regards chemists, so far as the supply of medicines and medical and surgical appliances is concerned. Mr. Walshaw considered that chemists throughout the country are opposed to Sunday trading.

Mr. D. R. Thomas, proprietor of Cousins, Thomas & Sons, chemists, Oxford, was one of the most successful exhibitors at the London Hackney Show held at the Agricultural Hall last week. Mr. Thomas was awarded first, second, and third prizes for his ponies, besides winning the championship for the best pony brood mare. His now famous Paula, who had competitors not only from England, Scotland, and Wales, but from abroad, has won the championship four years in succession, a feat, we understand, never before accomplished by any breeder. The stud is at Talybont, Cardiganshire, Mr. Thomas' native place.

The Public Weal.

Mr. John Taylor, J.P., chemist and druggist, 15 Lucius Street, Torquay, has been re-elected a member of the Devon County Council.

Mr. G. J. Gostling, chemist and druggist, Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, was last week re-elected to the East Suffolk County Council for the Combs division.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clifford Probyn has been re-elected to the London County Council for the Strand Division. At the first meeting of the Council on Thursday Sir Herbert Parsons (Ashton & Parsons, Ltd.), was re-elected an Alderman.

Shops Act.

The Ashford (Kent) Urban Council have made an order for chemists to close each Wednesday at 1 P.M.

The St. Helens Town Council have made an order for closing by chemists, etc., on Thursdays at 1 P.M.

At a meeting of pharmacists in Nottingham on Wednesday, March 12, it was resolved that a Closing Order for Thursday be asked for.

The shops inspectors of Nelson are to take a canvass of chemists, etc., regarding the advisability of having a closing order fixing Tuesday as the weekly half-holiday.

The Wimbledon Town Council has decided to take the necessary preliminary steps for making an order fixing Wednesday as the weekly half-holiday for shops in which the sale of medicines and medical and surgical appliances is carried on.

Some municipal authorities are pointing out that tradesmen who alter their half-day closing arrangements at Easter must alter the notices in the shops. There was much offending in that respect at Christmas, and tradesmen are warned that similar offences at Easter may bring trouble.

The chemists of Manchester received the notices from the Town Clerk on March 8, containing the voting paper for the compulsory closing of their shops for one half-day weekly. It was hoped that this would have been hung up for a little longer period to enable chemists to judge of the working of the Insurance Act, as this has so altered the circumstances that one hardly knows (writes a correspondent) how the voting will go.

Fire.

Fire caused damage estimated at 10,000*l.* at the drug mills of Messrs. John Wyld & Co., situated between Larcom Street and Colworth Grove, Walworth, London, S.E., early on the morning of March 8. The premises are difficult of access, there being only a gateway in Larcom Street, while Colworth Grove is a narrow cul-de-sac. When the firemen arrived the fire had secured a strong hold on the extensive premises. Their efforts confined the fire mainly to the one set of premises, but the flames attacked an adjoining building of three floors, used as engine-rooms, drying-rooms, and stores. At its height the fire illuminated the whole district. Hydrants and steamers were working from every possible point, but the main building suffered severely. About two-thirds of the premises were burned out, with their contents, which included large quantities of stores and much valuable machinery. The two upper floors of the second building were partially destroyed. The firm are large drug-grinders to the trade. The special store for opium was not affected.

Easter Holidays.

The following houses have intimated that their establishments will be closed on Good Friday and on the following Monday :

The British Drug Houses, Ltd., Graham Street, London, N.
Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., 60 Bartholomew Close, London, E.C.

Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney, Ltd., 44 to 50 Southwark Street, London, E.C.

The establishments of the following will be closed from Thursday night, March 20, until Tuesday morning, March 25 :

Allen & Hanburys, Ltd., Bethnal Green, London, E. (small urgent orders will be executed at their establishments at Plough Court, 37 Lombard Street, E.C., and at 7 Vere Street, W.).

Barclay & Sons, 95 Farringdon Street, London, E.C.
A. Berliner, 15 and 17 Worship Street, London, E.C.
Burrroughs Wellcome & Co., Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C.

Thomas Christy & Co., 4 to 12 Old Swan Lane, London, E.C.

Duncan, Flockhart & Co., 143 Farringdon Road, London, E.C. (urgent orders filled on Saturday).

S. Maw, Son & Sons, 7 to 12 Aldersgate Street, London, E.C.

May, Roberts & Co., Ltd., 7, 9, and 11 Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.

F. Newbery & Sons, Ltd., 27 and 28 Charterhouse Square, London, E.C.

Parke, Davis & Co., 50 to 54 Beak Street, Regent Street, London, W.

Sangers, 258 Euston Road, London, N.W. (closing again on the following Friday and Saturday for stock-taking).

F. Schutze & Co., Ltd., Black Bull Works, Caledonian Market, London, N.

T. & H. Smith, Ltd., 22 City Road, London, E.C.

Thomas Tyrer & Co., Ltd., Stratford, London, E.

Birmingham Notes.

Mr. W. A. Cadbury has presented to the Corporation the freehold of a piece of land containing 1,000 square yards in Hazelwell Street, and used as a bowling-green.

A meeting of pharmacists on the panel was called by the Midland Pharmaceutical Association for Wednesday afternoon, to receive important information *re* Insurance matters.

Sir Oliver Lodge, F.R.S., principal of Birmingham University, has been nominated President of the British Association, which is to hold its annual gathering in this city next September.

Mr. E. W. Mann, B.Sc., gave an excellent paper on "A Few Notes on the Chemistry of Drugs" before the Birmingham and Midland Institute Chemical Society on March 5 last, when Mr. J. F. Liverseege, F.I.C., Ph.C., took the chair.

Some 15*l.* worth of radium has been recovered of that worth 100*l.* lost last September through a Birmingham physician throwing an applicator on loan from Messrs. Southall Bros. & Barclay, Ltd., into the fire with some waste dressings (*C. & D.*, 1912, II., 496).

Liverpool Notes.

Many chemists are making good shows of photographic materials. With Easter coming so early it will make a long summer, and photographic pharmacists hope to make up this summer for last year being so wet.

Our local correspondent writes that Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., have presented to each of their customers who is on a panel of dispensing chemists a free copy of the *C. & D.* "Pricing Table for Insurance Dispensing." This is sent out with their March price-list.

Several chemists in the Liverpool district are now designating their premises "Dispensaries." One local limited liability company with four shops has carved signs hung over their doorways, with the wording, "National Health Dispensary." Many chemists have window-posters calling attention to their dispensing Insurance prescriptions free. "Insurance Dispensing" is another term used; while some go so far as to display a Royal Crown and the words "By Appointment, Insurance Dispensers."

Manchester Notes.

The white prescription-forms made their appearance on Tuesday for the first time. They are liked much better than the green and pink forms.

The Manchester Corporation have granted a licence for the sale of poisonous substances to Mr. Henry Mostyn Darrah, of Messrs. Baxendale & Co., Ltd., 40 Miller Street, Manchester. Thirteen licences were renewed, and six assistants' licences have also been granted.

Several chemists are exhibiting in their windows large showcards calling attention to the fact that they are "Dispensers to the Nation"; and "Prescriptions Dispensed Free under the National Insurance Act" is the title of another showcard in a chemist's window on the north side.

There are indications that the Manchester and Salford schemes in connection with the Insurance Act will not outlast the current quarter. It will be remembered that the systems in question were adopted as a solution of the deadlock which had arisen at the eleventh hour, owing to the refusal of Manchester and Salford doctors to serve on a capitation basis. They got the "attendance system," and are to be paid out of the pool. It is this that is breaking down.

Notts Notes.

A burglary was committed at the residence of Mr. G. J. R. Parkes (B.D.H.), West Bridgford, during the temporary absence of the family, on the evening of March 9. Mr. Parkes' Masonic jewels were among the booty.

Wor. Bro. R. FitzHugh was the guest of his Lodge at a special meeting at the Nottingham Masonic Hall on March 6. Wor. Bro. FitzHugh was Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1869 and 1870, and is at present Provincial Grand Master of Mark Masonry in Notts. Last year a new Mark Lodge was consecrated under his name at West Bridgford, while the Grand Lodge of England conferred upon him the rank of Grand Assistant Director of Ceremonies.

Wine-licences.

The Taunton Magistrates have refused to renew the wine-licence of Messrs. Gregory & Wrenn, Ltd., chemists.

Mr. J. Vince, chemist, Cheapside, Lancaster, explained to the Lancaster Brewster Sessions Bench on March 6 that he failed to arrive in court in time at the previous sessions because of a "great rush of Insurance prescriptions." The explanation was accepted.

Off wine-licences have been granted to the following :

Mr. T. W. Reynolds, chemist, High Street, Hirwain.

Mr. R. S. Angus, chemist, 24 St. Nicholas Street, Lancaster. Mr. Angus held a similar licence for fifteen years in his Stonewell shop.

At Ammanford, Mr. J. W. Evans, Garnant, chemist, applied for a wine-licence in respect of new premises known as "The Pharmacy." The Magistrates granted the application with the stipulation that the licence in respect of Commer Place was dropped.

Applications for wine-licences by the following chemists have been refused :

Mr. F. Oatley, Railway Road, Withnell.

Mr. S. S. Holford, Ph.C., of 96 Allerton Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool.

Mr. A. E. Greaves, 75 Fore Street, Redruth. Applicant's solicitor pointed out that applicant, as a panel chemist under the National Insurance Act, was bound to supply whatever was prescribed.

At Pontypridd licensing sessions last week, formal objections had been lodged to the renewal of the following chemists' wine-licences: Those of Messrs. W. Llewellyn, John Davies, Emrys Richards, and John W. Richards, all of Tonypanddy; W. R. Williams, Tylorstown; J. Burgess, Ferndale; John Davies, Porth; and J. R. Lewis, Ynyshir. A question arose as to whether the licensees had exposed for sale or sold wines other than medicated wines. Mr. J. W. Richards, chemist and druggist, Tonypanddy, said when his licence was first granted twenty-six years ago there were no restrictions, nor had any conditions been imposed since on renewal. He never exposed any but medicinal wines in his shop. He had only been open for a few hours for supplying medicines on Sundays since the passing of the Insurance Act. All the licences were renewed, those of Messrs. W. Llewellyn, J. Davies, and E. Richards, of Tonypanddy, and J. Davies, of Porth, being subject to an undertaking that only medicated wines would be supplied. In regard to the chemists to whom no objections had been raised that day, the Stipendiary Magistrate remarked that it might be well for him to point out that next year the Bench would probably consider the question whether these licences should be renewed as wine-licences and not as wine and spirit licences. There would also be the question as to redundancy and whether there was any necessity to reduce them.

From Various Courts.

At the Mansion House Police Court on March 7, Helen Zuirra (43), married, was fined 50*s.*, or in default to undergo three months' imprisonment, for smuggling saceharin.

At Sheffield Sessions, Jas. Duckworth, labourer, was sentenced to ten months' hard labour for attempting to break into one of the Sheffield establishments of Boots. Ltd., on January 9.

At Nottingham Police Court on March 10, Joseph Murphy, *alias* Deegan, was committed for trial on a charge of breaking into the pharmacy of Mr. A. Middleton at 6 Middle Marsh, on February 26, and stealing various articles.

At York on March 7, a lad named Herbert Carter was sent to a reformatory for breaking into the warehouse of Mr. Thos. Parker, chemist and druggist, of Bridge Street, York, and stealing a quantity of patent medicines and other goods. Two other boys were bound over for a year for their connection with the theft.

At the Hackney Coroner's Court on March 12, Dr. W. Wynn Westcott inquired into the death of Eliza Reighington (49), 102 Chatsworth Road, Clapton, N.E. The husband stated that his wife had for years suffered greatly with asthma. To get relief she had used extensively Potter's asthma powder. The Coroner: Was it medically recommended?—Witness: No; but it gave her relief. The Coroner: Did she use it very frequently daily? Witness: She would use it a number of times during the day and several times during the night. On the night of her death she did not inhale any of the burning powder at all. Dr. Drought said he had never recommended deceased to use the powder for asthma. It would be an anti-spasmodic. The Coroner: At one time they used lobelia-leaves, I believe. Do you think that is so? Witness: That or stramonium. These powders would be quite safe enough if the person had a strong heart, but this lady had not. The Coroner: And that is where the mischief comes in in these cases, people using things they know nothing at all about without medical advice. A Juror: Is it possible to take an overdose of this powder? Witness: It is hard to say, but of course it is risky at all times with a weak heart. The Coroner: If she had died just after the use of the stuff there might have been a presumption that it had been the cause of death, but here we have evidence to show that she did not use it that night at all. The Juror: Do

you think it accelerated death? Witness: I should be sorry to say that outright. Witness added that death was due to heart-failure. The Coroner said it was impossible in such a case as this to connect the death with the asthma-powder, although its use was no doubt dangerous to a person with a weak heart. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

IRISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

The latest dates for lodging applications for the April examinations are: Thursday, March 20, for the Preliminary examination; Tuesday, March 25, for the Registered Druggist; Wednesday, March 26, for the Pharmaceutical Licence; Monday, March 31, for the Pharmaceutical Assistant. Applications should be lodged with the Registrar by 11 A.M. on the respective dates.

Drugs and Surgical Appliances Contracts.

Irish Boards of Guardians are at present dealing with the tenders for the supply of medicines and medical and surgical appliances for the year beginning April 1. The following have been arranged, the percentages indicated being the discounts allowed off the standard list:

—	Medicines	Surgical Appliances
Armagh ...	Boileau & Boyd (Dublin), 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ %	—
Castlereagh ...	Boileau & Boyd, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	—
Clonmel ...	Boileau & Boyd, 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	Same contractors, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Donegal ...	Boileau & Boyd, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	Sumner & Co. (Liverpool), 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Dublin (S.) ...	Boileau & Boyd, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	Fannin & Co., 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Edenderry ...	Boileau & Boyd, 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ %	Same contractors, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Govey ...	Boileau & Boyd, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	—
Granard ...	Boileau & Boyd, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	Boileau & Boyd, 30%
Londonderry ...	Sumner & Co., 30%	Connor & Sons (Newry) 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Loughrea ...	Boileau & Boyd, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	Sumner & Co., 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Newry ...	Boileau & Boyd, 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	Connor & Sons, 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ %

Shops Act.

The Corporation of Dublin has given notice of intention to revoke the exemption orders made last November in the case of chemists and druggists and a number of other traders.

The Sligo Corporation has now made an order for the closing of the chemists' and druggists' establishments each Wednesday at 1 o'clock. At the meeting of the local branch of the Chemists' Assistants' Association a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. T. H. Fitzpatrick for the very successful manner in which he had organised the movement.

Brevities.

Mr. D. S. Prentice, M.R.C.V.S., has been promoted to the post of Chief Inspector of the Veterinary Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

During the rebuilding of Mr. R. A. Austin's premises in Strand, Londonderry, he has removed his pharmaceutical business to a shop on the other side of the thoroughfare.

The Local Government Board have intimated to the Londonderry Board of Guardians, who have obtained a supply of urotropin, that the drug in question could be obtained at one-twelfth of the cost as hexamethylene-tetramine.

Sir William J. Baxter, D.L., Ph.C., Coleraine, has resigned the secretaryship of Terrace Row Presbyterian Congregation, a position which he filled for thirty-five years. He was presented with an address from the congregation thanking him for his services.

The death has occurred at Cavan of Mr. Philip McGovern, who had more than a local reputation on

account of his possession of a cure for hydrophobia. The recipe has been in the family for 300 years, and has been bequeathed to deceased's next-of-kin.

It is understood that the Royal Veterinary College, Dublin, will shortly be transferred to the control of the Department of Agriculture. The charter will have to be annulled before the change can take place. It is desired to undertake research work on the diseases of animals.

The Council of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce has approved of the nomination of Mr. Samuel Gibson, J.P., to represent the Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland on the Council. The trade section of the Chamber devoted to wholesale druggists has selected Mr. Thos. Scott, J.P., as chairman, and Mr. E. W. Pim, J.P., as representative of the Council.

A Dispenser's Salary.

Mr. C. J. Johnson, Ph.C., Dublin Street, Carlow, was twenty-three and a-half years ago appointed dispenser to the Carlow Dispensary at a salary of 30*l.* per annum. The number of prescriptions compounded in 1902, when first a record was kept, was 6,133; last year it was 8,846. Mr. Johnson applied for an increase in his salary, and the Guardians offered 5*l.* This Mr. Johnson has declined to accept. At the last meeting of the Guardians the matter was discussed, and a notice of motion handed in to grant an increase of 20*l.* The Urban Council sent a recommendation to the same effect.

Creditors' Meeting.

The statement of the affairs of Mr. Wm. M. Kennedy, Ph.C., Church Street, Hollywood, co. Down, shows net assets estimated to realise 207*l.*, liabilities 577*l.*, and claims of preferential creditors 60*l.* At a meeting of creditors in Belfast on March 7 an offer was made of 5*s.* in the pound. This was subsequently increased to 6*s.* 8*d.*, and was accepted by the meeting. Among the creditors are: Ayton, Saunders & Co., Ltd., Liverpool, 16*l.*; British Drug Houses, Ltd., London, 64*l.*; Bidwell, Bidwell & Co., Ltd., Axminster, 10*l.* 5*s.*; Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., Liverpool, 46*l.*; Idris & Co., Ltd., Liverpool, 25*l.* 10*s.*; Thomas Kerfoot & Co., Bardsley, 13*l.*; Parke, Davis & Co., London, 12*l.*; Southall Bros. & Barclay, Ltd., Birmingham, 25*l.*; Sumner & Co., Liverpool, 24*l.*; Yardley & Co., Ltd., Stratford, 10*l.*

In the Courts.

At the adjourned inquest last week on the body of Mr. Edward O'Brien, chemist and commercial traveller (see *C. & D.*, March 1, index folio 326), a verdict was returned that death was caused by poisoning with hydrocyanic acid.

At co. Tyrone Assizes on March 10, Wm. John Rankin, a farmer, was sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment with hard labour for maliciously poisoning a mare, three cows, two heifers, and two calves, belonging to a neighbour, with a preparation containing arsenic. Mr. Moss, analyst, of Dublin, was one of the witnesses for the Crown.

At the Leitrim Assizes a decree was affirmed for 10*l.* against the Ballinaglera Co-operative Society by John McMorrow, who alleged that the Society sold him sulphate of soda for spraying purposes instead of carbonate of soda, and that in consequence his crops were destroyed. His Lordship said he was satisfied the Society made a mistake, and, in addition to affirming the decree, he gave 3*l.* expenses.

SCOTTISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

The National Insurance work has been very heavy in Aberdeen during the past four weeks.

Confirmation of the Aberdeen half-day closing order has arrived. The authorities intend to have it in operation next Wednesday.

The city of Aberdeen is to have its industries added to. A German firm is to commence business as manufacturers of cod-liver oil.

The annual general meeting of Edinburgh Pharmacy Athletic Club will be held at 36 York Place on Monday, March 17, at 9 P.M.

Mr. John Robertson, chemist and druggist, Arbroath, has secured the contract for the supply of medicines to the Arbroath and St. Vigean's Parish Council.

Motherwell chemists have issued to doctors in the town a folding card of their house addresses, with dates from February 26, 1913, to January 28, 1914, when one or other of them will be in attendance at their residences for urgent prescriptions on the half-holiday afternoon and evenings. (Wednesdays).

Mr. W. L. Currie, Hon. Secretary of the Kinninmont Prize Trust, 223 Byres Road, Dowanhill, Glasgow, is prepared to receive applications from candidates for the examinations. Names must be submitted not later than April 30. Mr. Currie will send the syllabus on application. It is intended, if the response warrants it, to give an additional prize.

Business Changes.

Mr. A. Hogg, late manager of Messrs. Cockburn & Co.'s Kilmarnock branch, has taken over the business of Mr. W. D. Mitchell, Annan.

The old-established business in Dumfries belonging to Mr. G. L. McGibbon has been sold to Mr. Edward T. Noltie, chemist and druggist.

Mr. Thos. Welsh, chemist and druggist, has acquired the business in Moffat belonging to Mr. Nicol, and previously owned by Mr. G. Little.

Mr. W. W. Brown, chemist and druggist, has purchased the business at 26 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, lately carried on by Mr. Christie.

FRENCH NEWS.

(From the "C. & D." Paris Correspondent.)

UNIVERSITY OF PARIS.—M. Guignard, Professor of Botany, and M. Bourquelot, Professor of Galenical Pharmacy, both of the Paris School of Pharmacy, have been re-elected Members of the Council of the Paris University.

OIL-LAMP FATALITY.—At Ainay-le-Château, near Montluçon, a benzoline lamp exploded in the pharmacy of M. André Bouillac. A tin of benzol close by caught fire, and the burning liquid was projected on the clothes of the pharmacist, who died shortly afterwards from burns.

HEAVY FINE.—On Monday, March 10, M. Roquet, described as a manufacturer of pharmaceutical products, was ordered to pay a sum amounting to nearly 1,400,000 fr. (56,000*l.*) to the French Excise for frauds in connection with the transport of alcohol, as a result of a prosecution. It appears that the defendant was in the habit of sending from Paris to pharmacists in the country so-called alcoholic medicaments treated in such a way that the tincture they contained could easily be removed by the recipients, and the alcohol could afterwards be employed for ordinary commercial purposes. The preparations being declared as medicines, they escaped paying the Excise tax, and it is claimed that the proceeding was a direct fraud on the Government.

THE JUBILEE OF THE "UNION PHARMACEUTIQUE."—On the occasion of the Jubilee of the French journal of pharmacy the "Union Pharmaceutique," already referred to in the *C. & D.*, M. Charles Buchet, the Director of the Pharmacie Centrale de France, and the Board of Management entertained a large number of distinguished guests, two hundred and seventy in all, at a banquet held at the Palais d'Orsay Hotel, Paris. The recent creation of the Historical Society of Pharmacy, due to the initiative of M. Buchet, was celebrated on the same occasion. M. Morel, a distinguished pharmacist and Colonial Minister in the present Cabinet, in making "the speech of the evening," referred to the sphere of usefulness of a highly organised and well-conducted journal of pharmacy; and, in speaking incidentally of the colonies, he dwelt on what he said must be considered the glorious task accomplished by the pharmacists attached to the Colonial Service of Health.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN NEWS.

RUSSIAN PLATINUM.—The Russian output represents over 90 per cent. of the world's total production, but, as already noted in the *C. & D.*, there was a falling-off last year. The production of the Nische Tagil Co., which is under the financial control of the Compagnie Industrielle de Platine, Paris, was much below normal, and the platinum-mines of Count Schuwalow, in which French capital is interested, also yielded less. Apparently the decreased production has been more than counterbalanced by the higher prices which prevailed for the metal last year, for the balance-sheet issued by the Compagnie Industrielle de Platine disclosed increased profits and proposed a dividend of 30f. per share, against 25f. in the previous year.

ARGENTINE CHEMISTS' STRIKE.—In our issue of February 15 (index folio 256) we gave some particulars of the chemists' strike in Argentina, as a result of the attitude taken up by the Argentine Minister of Finance in regard to the further taxation of medicinal specifics and perfumes. A Buenos Aires correspondent, writing to us on February 10, says:

"During the many years I have been connected with the drug-trade I have never known such unanimous adhesion among druggists in protest against inconsiderate legislation. With thirteen exceptions, every wholesale and retail druggist closed his premises on Friday and Saturday, February 7 and 8, and large departmental stores exhibited notices informing the public that the sale of perfumes had been suspended until such time as the law in question should be suspended or modified. Happily, the Government decided to suspend the working of the law for another six months, in order to allow time for reconsideration as to the best methods of applying the principles involved."

The Argentine Press devoted columns to the matter, in which they strongly condemned the action of the Government in trying to enforce such objectionable legislation. At the outset the Minister of Finance refused to suspend the operation of the law (8930), and almost all of the 420 druggists in Buenos Ayres, as well as those of Rosario, Mendoza, Bahia Blanca, Sante Fé, Mar del Plata, Tucuman, Cordoba, and other provincial towns and cities, closed their shops for two days. The Government then threatened to cancel the licences of those druggists who "took holidays," but wiser counsels prevailed. The committee of pharmacists, drug-merchants, and importers of perfumery issued a manifesto to the public explaining at length the reasons for the extreme measures resorted to. We gave the new scale of duties in our issue of October 5, 1912 (index folio 530), and we may now add that the objection is not so much against the increased taxation (which the consumer pays), but to the fact that three stamps have to be affixed to each article (the existing one of 5 cents, up to \$1), another indicating the selling price, and the third representing the additional tax. The progression of the tax stops at \$2 for medicinal specialties and at \$5 for perfumery, so that those who can afford to buy articles above these prices pay no tax.

MR. J. J. HOFMAN, General Secretary of the International Congress of Pharmacy, 4 Schenkweg, The Hague, calls attention to a booklet on Holland which is issued by the Official Information Office for Tourists, 45 Lange Voorhout, The Hague. It is in English, well illustrated, and is sent post free on application.

THE WELSHPOOL ALMANACK for 1913, which is published by Mr. H. Payne, dispensing and agricultural chemist, 16 Broad Street, Welshpool, is as attractive as previous issues. The historical portion is a long account of the rejoicings which took place when Viscount Clive came of age in 1839. This is particularly *à propos* as the present Viscount Clive is twenty-one in December. A good deal of general information is given regarding local institutions.

THE "KNIGHTON ANNUAL" is published by Mr. G. M. Perkins, chemist and druggist, High Street, Knighton. Mr. Perkins is on the dispensing panel for the counties of Radnor, Salop, and Hereford, and gives a summary of the medical benefit and maternity benefit enjoyed by contributors under the National Insurance Act. The incorrect statement is made that "the mothers of illegitimate children are not entitled to [maternity] benefit."

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS.

(From "C. & D." Correspondents.)

"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of the seven Societies and Associations of Chemists in British South Africa, as well as to other chemists in business there.

The Union.

EXCISE BILL.—Our Cape Town correspondent, writing under date of February 19, states that the Union Government is not yet in a position to publish the proposed Bill governing Excise, and no information is available officially further than was given in the *C. & D.* last week. The Natal rum-trade and the Cape wine-industry have to be reckoned with, and this probably accounts for the secrecy and delay.

THE YEAR'S DRUG TRADE.—The imports of "drugs, chemicals, and apothecaries' wares into the Union during 1912 amounted in value to 948,543l., against 930,252l. in 1911. Among the principal items were: Medicinal preparations, 122,917l. (1911, 115,836l.); apothecaries' wares, 153,044l. (1911, 128,030l.); sodium cyanide, 10,694,370 lb. (1911, 13,331,203 lb.); disinfectants and germicides, 48,353l. (1911, 40,186l.); all other drugs and chemicals, 148,993l. (1911, 128,475l.). Other imports included toilet soap, 1,088,504 lb. (1911, 1,137,734 lb.); quicksilver, 281,627 lb. (1911, 238,808 lb.); perfumery and toilet preparations, 57,619l. (1911, 47,143l.); perfumed spirits, 8,454 gals. (1911, 8,032 gals.); photographic materials, 45,774l. (1911, 43,456l.); sheep-dip, 90,803l. (1911, 74,197l.); surgical and dental appliances, 32,333l. (1911, 34,929l.); glycerin for manufactures, 15,271,871 lb. (1911, 14,741,326 lb.).

Cape Province.

A PROPOSED SOCIETY.—We are informed that a new organisation of chemists is to be formed at Cape Town, the name of which has not been definitely decided. It is the result of the difference of opinion of some former members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Cape Province.

THE CAPE TOWN P.A.T.A. has not so far made much headway; it would seem as though there is something wrong with its methods. The agents of the American manufacturers whose products sell in South Africa have met, and the consensus of opinion indicates, as one American puts it, "nothing doing"; the average British agent is much of the same frame of mind. It is stated that the wholesale trade has started to boycott certain lines, but there is no substantial evidence to this effect. In the Transvaal prices are the same as at the coast port, or even lower, but the purchasing power is greater. The Transvaal wants a P.A.T.A., the Cape wants a P.A.T.A., but the methods of the British P.A.T.A. cannot apply to South Africa, nor can the American methods. If a wholesaler and a retailer were delegated by each State in the Union, the manufacturers being duly represented at a conference, something definite might be arrived at. Unless the trade can work with the manufacturer, the P.A.T.A. in South Africa will be a failure.

Rhodesia.

PERSONAL.—Mr. T. A. Little (of Lennon, Ltd.), has left Salisbury to assume control of that firm's East London business. During their five years' residence in Salisbury both Mr. and Mrs. Little have made themselves extremely popular without as well as within pharmaceutical circles, and the esteem in which they are held took tangible form on February 9, when they were presented with a handsome five-piece service of plate, consisting of coffee-pot, teapot, cream jug, and sugar-bowl on a suitably engraved tray. The chemists present, among others, were Messrs. P. W. Skerrett, J. H. Nimmo, Norman Harris, C. Owen (all of Lennon, Ltd.), and Messrs. E. Watson and F. G. Dixon (of Strachan & Co.). Mr. and Mrs. Little carry with them to their new sphere the best wishes of their many Salisbury friends.

Cape Pharmaceutical Society.

THE annual general meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of the Cape Province was held in Mercantile Buildings, Hout Street, Cape Town, on Thursday, February 13. In the absence of the President (Mr. J. Austin Thomas, J.P.), Mr. W. Froembling, Ph.D., presided. Among the members present were Messrs. F. C. Mathew (Heynes, Mathew, Ltd.), J. Patterson (Burroughs Wellcome & Co.), M. Elgar (Martin Elgar, Ltd.), J. Sowden, J. R. Corrigan, J. Dell, W. J. H. Thomas, W. Nel, R. C. Kerridge, C. J. Cheetham, C. F. Spruce, and the Secretary (Mr. James Sloan).

THE ANNUAL REPORT was read by the Secretary. It stated that the year just closed had been a comparatively quiet one, and had it not been for the Pharmacy Board election the position of the Secretary would have been practically a sinecure. During the year six council meetings had been held, with an average attendance of eight, and six general meetings, with an average attendance of nineteen. Besides there were eight special council meetings and one special general meeting. During the year one member was lost through death (Mr. T. J. Andersen) and five members had resigned, while five new members were elected. Reference was made to welcome visits by several members of the craft from different parts of the Union, and to the utility of the registration book for assistants; and, in concluding, Mr. Sloan expressed the hope that members would more consistently notify him as to changes of address.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. W. Fick (Treasurer), in submitting the balance-sheet, drew the attention of country members to the necessity of paying the bank commission when forwarding their subscriptions, and he asked members generally to pay subscriptions early. He suggested that the old books of Treasurers should be kept in the archives of the Society.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.—Dr. Froembling, in the course of an address on the work of the year, said it was imperative that the Shop Hours Act should be enforced by law, the chemist being, during closing hours, entitled to a special night-fee. This would stop inconsiderate customers from worrying him for trifles at times when he was supposed to enjoy the required rest. As regards the present poison laws not being explicit enough, he hoped the Union Parliament would pass such that would sufficiently safeguard the public, who do not seem to realise as yet that the restrictions placed on the sale of poisons were for their own benefit to prevent misuse or accidents. He quoted the following recent cases:

So called ant poison, distributed it appears by an official of some suburban municipality, caused the death of an infant. This would have been avoided if parents had been sufficiently warned to place the preparation out of the reach of children.

A woman lost her life by the indiscriminate use of chlorodyne purchased from a general dealer. The magistrate who conducted the inquest was of the opinion that the patent-medicine licensee covered the sale of the article in question.

That an otherwise comparatively innocent substance might likewise cause disaster, in consequence of careless handling, was illustrated at an inquest, when it was shown that a small child met an untimely end by swallowing a solution of permanganate of potash left in a cup on a table.

As a curiosity, Dr. Froembling mentioned that a local bookseller, posing as an expert in snake-poison, had started to offer for sale snake serum as an antidote. He hoped this was done with the necessary formalities as required by law; otherwise indiscriminate use of the snake serum might cause more disasters than any snake-bite epidemic ever did. Regarding business in the peninsula, Dr. Froembling pointed out that, although statistics seemed to indicate that the past year had been a fairly prosperous one, this could not be said for the retail trade in particular. As to the present year, reduced immigration, prolonged drought, and political uncertainty did not pave the way towards progress and prosperity. Mr. Mathew returned thanks on behalf of the Society to Dr. Froembling for his conduct in the chair, and expressed appreciation for his eminent services for the Society.

COUNCIL AND OFFICERS.—The following were elected members of the Council: Messrs. G. R. Cleghorn, J. Sloan, J. Dell, W. Froembling, J. Austin Thomas, W. Fick, F. C. Mathew, J. Patterson, C. F. Spruce, W. J. H. Thomas, W. H. Hopkins, and J. Sowden. The last-named was elected President, and Messrs. J. Austin Thomas and J. Dell Vice-Presidents. Mr. J. Sloan was re-elected Secretary and Mr. W. J. H. Thomas Treasurer.

A READY-RECKONER for Insurance prescription pricing is the C. & D. card, price 6d., by post 7d., from 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

FORMULAS for B.P.C. preparations on the Insurance drug tariff are printed in an eight-page leaflet, which is supplied at 6d. per doz. (7d. by post) by the C. & D. Book Department, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

OUR AMERICAN LETTER.

(Special Correspondence to the "C. & D.")

Union League Club.—The seventh regiment of the National Guard, New York, which is an organisation of over 107 years' duration, commemorated the close of the Union League Club's first half-century by a review on March 10. The Club was founded in 1863 to give support to the national cause. The President is Mr. Samuel W. Fairchild, of Fairchild Brothers & Foster.

Camphor in Florida.—A paragraph is going the rounds of the American financial Press that the State of Florida is now able to produce camphor, thus "ridding consumers and druggists in the United States of one of the most formidable trusts in the world—viz., the Japanese Syndicate—whose gigantic groves in Formosa and in Japan have for centuries controlled the entire output." It appears that there is a 1,000-acre grove of camphor at Crescent City, Fla., which after three years' cultivation is said to be a financial and scientific success. The paragraph would lead the reader to believe that camphor is already being produced, but we do not suppose the cultivation is beyond the experimental stage. It is said that a New England drug combine is to duplicate this 1,000-acre grove.

Senna Siftings.—At a meeting of the City of Washington branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association on February 12 a paper on "Commercial Senna Siftings," prepared by Dr. G. W. Hoover, was read by Mr. D. K. Chestnut. This described the difficulties in obtaining senna siftings and the result of the experiments undertaken to obtain such siftings comparatively free from ash and other foreign materials; further, the methods of cleaning by which the siftings can be cleaned to a degree that the ash-content will not exceed the limit of 14 per cent. Results obtained showed that out of an original bale of 352 lb. net, the ash-content was 17.52 per cent. By dividing the contents into nine portions, and following the cleaning process outlined, it was found that the lowest ash-content in any portion was 9.48 per cent. and the highest only 10.63 per cent. No difficulty was found in removing the sand at but little cost. The discussion which followed indicated that the allowance of 14 per cent. ash was considered liberal.

OUR GERMAN LETTER.

(Special Correspondence to the "C. & D.")

Medicine Monopoly.—At the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Berlin Association of Druggists, Professor von Schulze-Gavernitz, a Privy Councillor, spoke on the pharmacists' monopoly of the sale of medicines, which, he said, leads to unduly high prices to the public, who, he added, pay the interests on the privileges of the pharmacists. Much more the Professor said, and his attack is based largely on the expected publication of a list of preparations which may be sold by druggists, while all other preparations not specially enumerated are to remain the monopoly of the pharmacist.

Indian Cargo Service.—The Government contracts with the German mail-steamers are shortly to be renewed, and in chemical circles the wish has been expressed to introduce a service of German mail-steamers to British Indian ports, in order to provide a speedier service of goods to those ports. It is pointed out that the German steamers which touch at Indian ports are slow cargo-boats, and for the sake of rapid shipment goods have to be freighted on the British vessels calling at Antwerp; particularly the ships of the British India Line and the P. & O. call at that port and take important cargoes of German goods for Indian ports.

The Hamburg Apotheker-Verein has recently celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of its foundation. Among those present at the festivities were Professor Dr. Beckurts (Brunswick), Professor H. Thoms (Berlin), and Dr. Salzmann, President of the Deutscher Apotheker-Verein. Herr Abel, President of the Hamburg Verein, in the course of an address, mentioned that the following gentlemen had been made corresponding members of the Association: Professor Schmidt (Marburg), Professor Beckurts, Professor Thoms, Dr. Fröhlich (Berlin), Dr. Salzmann, Dr. Voigt (Butzbach), Herr Andrae (Flensburg), and Dr. Warnecke (Silesia), while Herr G. Kukutsch, founder of the Garantie-Genossenschaft of Hamburg Apothecaries, has been appointed honorary member. Professor Jungclausen has published in connection with the celebration a "History of the Hamburg Apothecaries from the Introduction of the Medicinal Regulations in 1818 up to the end of the Year 1912."

LEGAL REPORTS.

TRADE LAW.

A Committal.—In the City of London Court, before Judge Rentoul, K.C., on March 12, Mr. A. P. Engster and Mr. O. L. Engster, trading as the British Syphon Manufacturing Co., 55 Basinghall Street, E.C., applied to have Mr. G. F. Morgan, mineral-water manufacturer, 20 High Street, Peckham, committed for the non-payment of 18*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* due. Plaintiffs' representative said that the defendant owned a motor-car and held a mortgage of 4,000*l.* on property, besides owning others. Judge Rentoul, K.C., ordered the defendant's committal for eight days, unless he paid the debt in a month.

Alleged Holding-out.—In the City of London Court, before Judge Rentoul, K.C., on March 10, the hearing was resumed of the action by Mr. J. W. Caparn, malleable ironfounder, Walsall, against Messrs. Arnold & Sons, surgical-instrument manufacturers, 6 Giltspur Street, E.C., to recover 44*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* for trade goods—malleable iron fittings—supplied to the defendants' branch establishment at 12 Penton Grove, Pentonville, carried on by one Turner, employed by them. The previous hearing was reported in the *C. & D.*, 1912, II. 907. Judgment was now given for the plaintiff for 41*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, and costs.

Stolen Postal Order.—In the City of London Court, before Judge Rentoul, K.C., on March 7, the case of the Gradual Payment Corporation *v.* Elliott was heard. It was to recover 12*s.* 11*d.*, an instalment due on a bicycle supplied. The defendant had sent a postal order to the plaintiffs, which a former employé of theirs had stolen and cashed. He got six months' imprisonment for the offence. For the plaintiffs it was submitted that if the defendant had carried out the instructions contained in their statements and invoices that all postal orders were to be made payable to them and crossed, the theft would have been prevented. His Honour sustained this contention, and remarked that as the defendant had neglected to adopt the precaution available he must pay again. Judgment was accordingly entered for the plaintiffs with costs.

Resident Physicians are not "employed persons" within the meaning of Section 66 of the National Insurance Act. So it was decided by the First Division of the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on March 7. The action was taken by the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, in respect to the Insurance of (1) resident physicians and surgeons, (2) non-resident house physicians and surgeons and clinical assistants, and (3) supervisors of the administration of anaesthetics, none of whom have emoluments exceeding 160*l.* a year. The Infirmary contended that there was not a contract of service within the meaning of the Act between them and these persons, and the Court upheld the contention. The Lord President said the matter seemed to turn entirely upon whether these people were employed under a contract of service; he was of opinion that they were not, and thought it was a contract for services and not a contract of service. Lords Kinnear and Johnston concurred.

An Alleged Loan.—In the Court of Session, Edinburgh, Lord Ormisdale has disposed of the action by James Martin, wholesale grocer, Dumfries, and David Buchan Morris, Town Clerk, Stirling, trustees under an agreement between Mrs. Chrystal, Stirling, and her son and daughter, against John Bain, chemist, Bridge of Allan. The plaintiffs sued for 250*l.*, which they stated they advanced to the defendant as a loan in May 1901. The defendant denied the alleged loan, and said that he obtained from Mr. Chrystal 250*l.* against moneys which both parties believed stood at the credit of the defendant in account with Mr. Chrystal. It was afterwards discovered that the sums at the credit of the defendant with Mr. Chrystal did not amount to 250*l.*, and it was verbally arranged that the advance of that sum should be regarded as a loan by Mr. Chrystal to the defendant. No writing was executed, and the defendant said that he came to a general settlement with Mr. Chrystal and repaid the advance of 250*l.* Lord Ormisdale has found in favour of the defendant, holding that it was not made out that he had borrowed the 250*l.*

Ammonia Sulphate Contract.—Lords Justices Vaughan Williams, Farwell, and Kennedy, in the Court of Appeal, on March 7, delivered judgment in the action of Heller, Hirsch & Co. *v.* Groschke on the defendants' appeal from a judgment in the Commercial Court by Mr. Justice (now Lord Justice) Hamilton. The plaintiffs carry on business in New York, and the defendants at Billiter Buildings, London, and they brought the action to recover from the defendants damages for alleged breach of contract for the sale, shipment, and delivery of "3,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia at the price of 11*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* per ton c.i.f. Savannah or Charles-

ton, and 11*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* o.i.f. Wilmington or Mobile, at the buyers' option, on the basis of 25 per cent. ammonia, with a minimum of 24½ per cent. ammonia guaranteed." The plaintiffs said that as defendants had failed to deliver 1,600 tons of the ammonia sulphate ordered they were entitled to 2,833*l.* damages. The defence was that there was no concluded contract between the parties, and, alternatively, there was no note or memorandum in writing, and that therefore the contract was not enforceable. The Court, without calling on counsel for the respondents, upheld the decision in the Court below, awarding the plaintiffs 2,567*l.* 10*s.* on the ground that the defendants had committed a breach of contract, and dismissed the appeal, with costs.

Medicine Stamp Acts.

SELLING WITHOUT A LICENCE.

At Lampeter recently, David Jones, Dremddu, Silian, was charged with selling a skin-ointment styled "Dremddu ointment" without holding a patent-medicine licence and without affixing the proper stamp. Mr. R. J. Beattie, of the Solicitors' Department, Customs House, London, prosecuted. It appeared that the ointment was recommended for ringworm and other diseases. A Customs and Excise officer said he received the box unlabelled, but defendant stated the stamp was placed on the wrapper but would not stick. Accused pleaded guilty from ignorance to the first charge. A fine of 1*s.* and costs on each charge was imposed.

Shops Act, 1912.

TOILET-ARTICLES NOT MEDICINES.

At Aberdeen on March 6, Robert Hunter, chemist and druggist, was charged with having on the weekly half-holiday selected by him sold a cake of toilet-soap, a sponge, and a shaving-brush, these being goods other than medicines and medical and surgical appliances.

On behalf of accused, who pleaded guilty, Mr. Gavin Sinclair, solicitor, stated that the sale had been made to a lady apparently employed by the complainant. He could understand a lady buying toilet-soap and a sponge, but he could not understand her buying a shaving-brush. Of course, it might have been for the use of her husband. (Laughter.)

Mr. J. Johnstone, solicitor, who prosecuted, said that Mr. Hunter was one of the largest chemists in Aberdeen. Following a complaint in August last, Mr. Hunter told an inspector that he would stop selling general goods on Wednesday afternoon, the day of the half-holiday. The chemists had kept a further watch, and on February 12 a letter was received by the inspector from one of the chemists in Aberdeen complaining bitterly of accused.

Mr. Sinclair said there was no serious intention on Mr. Hunter's part of defying the Act. It was sometimes very difficult to draw a line of demarcation between what were surgical and medical appliances and the other parts of a chemist's stock-in-trade.

The Sheriff: You don't suggest that a shaving-brush is a surgical appliance? (Laughter.)

Mr. Hunter was fined 20*s.*, with 20*s.* 6*d.* expenses.

BANKRUPTCY REPORTS.

Re Frederick Geo. Pascall, Chemist and Druggist, Oakham.—At Leicester Bankruptcy Court on March 7 this debtor came up for his public examination upon a statement showing liabilities 659*l.* (449*l.* was expected to rank for dividend) and estimated assets 91*l.* Debtor attributed his failure to increased competition by proprietary medicines and the increase of motoring. No new facts transpired at the examination, which was closed.

Re Richard Abenheim & Co., London, New York, and Yokohama (Abenheim Brothers), Colonial and Export Merchants.—The constituent partners of this firm applied for their discharge at the London Bankruptcy Court on March 12. The Official Receiver, in opposing, alleged as offences (1) insufficiency of assets to equal 10*s.* in the pound on the amount of the unsecured liabilities; (2) trading with knowledge of insolvency; and (3) contributing to the bankruptcy by unjustifiable extravagance in living. The hearing was adjourned.

LIMITED COMPANIES.

New Companies Registered.

The letters P.C. mean Private Company within the meaning of the Companies Act, 1907, and R.O., Registered Office.

ERNEST ARTHUR BUTLER, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 300*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of a drug-store carried on by E. A. Butler, 127 Oldfield Road, Salford. The subscribers are E. A. Butler and A. E. Butler.

OWLES CASH CHEMISTS, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 2,500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business indicated by the title, and to adopt an agreement with T. R. Owles, who is the first director. R.O., 193 Rye Lane, Peckham, London, S.E.

HEATH'S CASH CHEMISTS, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, etc. The first directors are B. C. Heath, H. A. Fulcher, and Lilian E. Heath. R.O., 86 Nechells Park Road, Birmingham.

ELMER'S, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, etc. The first directors are A. T. Elmer (22 Newtown, Barnoldswick, *via* Colne, drug-store proprietor), Annie Elmer, and C. Saunders.

T. E. WILLIAMS, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 300*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of a chemist and druggist carried on by T. E. Williams at The Pharmacy, Caerphilly, Glam. The first directors are T. E. Williams (managing director) and D. Jones.

R. T. BOOTH'S HYOMEE, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 2,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturing and wholesale chemists and druggists, etc., and to adopt an agreement with J. E. Garratt, who is the first sole director. R.O., 96 Southwark Street, London, S.E.

HIGHGATE CHEMICAL CO. (BIRMINGHAM), LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in drugs, chemicals, etc., and to acquire the business carried on by F. A. Patterson as F. A. and R. Patterson at 35, 37, and 39 Moseley Road, Birmingham.

ROSS & CO. (LEEDS), LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 15,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of oil and colour men, chemists, druggists, etc., to acquire the business carried on at Trinity Street, Leeds, as Ross & Co., and to adopt an agreement with H. Ross, who is permanent governing director.

Company News.

GEO. COVERDALE, LTD.—Mr. W. H. Platts, 10 Park Row, Leeds, ceased to act as receiver or manager on February 20, 1913.

GRAPELAX, LTD.—Report of liquidator (Mr. B. L. Caunt) at meeting to be held at 379 Strand, London, W.C., on April 9, at 2 P.M.

EDWARDS' DENTAL MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.—The directors have paid a dividend of 6 per cent. on the preference shares and transferred 20 per cent. of the remaining profits to the reserve fund, the balance being carried forward.

EVANS SONS LESCHER & WEBB, LTD.—The report of the directors for the year ending December 31, 1912, which is to be submitted to the annual meeting on March 14, shows a trading profit of 36,034*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, etc., and including interest on investments. A balance of 13,163*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* was brought forward from the previous year, and 14*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* accrued from transfer and registration fees. After paying interest on the debenture stock and dividend on preference shares, also an interim dividend on ordinary shares in July last, and directors' fees and salaries, there remains an available balance for further dividend on ordinary shares of 6,639*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* The directors report that during 1912 the company did a larger volume of business than in any year since the company was formed, but the net profit is less than in 1911. This result is due to several causes beyond their control; the weather during the summer was exceptionally cold and wet, and during the winter very mild; hence the sale of many of the specialities of the company was not as much as usual. The coal strike early in the year disorganised business and added largely to the expenses. The directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the second half of the year, being the same rate as was declared for the first half, leaving 1,014*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* to be carried forward. The new building in Seel Street, Liverpool, was not completed last year, as anticipated, because of the coal strike; the directors hope to get possession this month, and thus effect

a considerable saving. Mr. Stephen Foster Webb has been travelling in the Australian Colonies, and has had a successful journey. Sir Edward Evans visited the United States and Canada during the year, and interviewed the numerous correspondents, to the advantage of the company. The company's bacteriological laboratories at Runcorn have been successfully carried on, with an increased trade in the various products. The cordial business relations with the National Drug and Chemical Co. of Canada, Ltd., continue, and the directors are pleased to report that the business of that company has greatly developed, owing to the general prosperity of Canada. Mr. J. N. Evans, Mr. E. A. Webb, and Mr. W. P. Evans, the retiring directors, offer themselves for re-election.

BIRTH.

MCLENNAN.—At 7 Leamington Terrace, Edinburgh, on March 10, the wife of Kenneth J. C. McLennan, chemist and druggist, of a son.

DEATHS.

ASCHERSON.—Dr. Paul Ascherson, Professor of Botany in Berlin University, died last week, aged seventy-eight. As a young man he studied medicine, but devoted himself particularly to the study of botany. In 1860 he was appointed assistant at the Botanical Gardens and Museum, Berlin, and in 1873 became Extraordinary Professor of Botany at the Berlin University.

CASTERTON.—On March 4, Mr. James Casterton, J.P., chemist and druggist, Market Rasen, aged seventy-five. Mr. Casterton succeeded his father, who established the business in 1804. He was chairman of the local Urban District Council, on which he had served since its formation.

HARPHAM.—On February 27, Mr. John Harpham, Ph.C., 6 Tanza Road, Hampstead, London, N.W., aged fifty-eight. Mr. Harpham passed the Minor examination in July 1877, and the Major in February 1879.

HADFIELD.—At Dartmouth, on January 25, Mr. Henry May Hadfield, chemist and druggist, Parade House, The Quay, Dartmouth, aged fifty-four.

OOCK.—At Bristol, recently, Mr. Charles Ocock, for thirty years a member of the staff of Messrs. Ferris & Co., Ltd., Bristol, aged seventy. Mr. Ocock was Grand Master of the Northmoor Order of Foresters (4097), Exeter. At the funeral Messrs. Waite (manager), Hodges, King, Watson, Rayson, Rice, and Harding represented the company.

PITTS.—On February 26, at Toddington, Beds, Mr. Joseph Addington Pitts, aged seventy-three. Mr. Pitts was apprenticed to a chemist at Bedford. He was in business at St. Ives prior to going to Toddington. He served on the Beds County Council and on the local Parish Council, of which he was chairman for three years. He was also a charity trustee.

PROSSER.—At Walkden, on February 26, Mr. James Alfred Prosser, chemist and druggist, 5 Bolton Road, Walkden, Manchester, aged fifty-four.

TAYLOR.—At 4 Audus Street, Selby, on March 9, Anna, widow of Mr. Francis Taylor, chemist and druggist, aged eighty-two.

THOMAS.—Recently, Mr. William Thomas, retired chemist, Daneslea, Builth Wells, aged seventy-four.

WILLS PROVEN.

MR. BENJAMIN BIGGS, chemical merchant, Clyde Place, Capworth Street, Leyton, and of 66 Cannon Street, London, E.C., who died on November 22, left estate of the gross value of 3,199*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, of which 938*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* is net personalty.

MR. WILLIAM SIMONS, chemist and druggist, of 16 High Street, Chippenham, who died on January 28, left estate of the gross value of 476*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* Probate of his will has been granted to his father, Mr. Wm. Simons, 96 Edgedale Road, Sheffield.

TRADE NOTES.

SULPHO-VASELINE has again obtained the highest award and gold medal at Cruft's International Dog Show, which was held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, N., last month.

MESSRS. FELTON & CREPIN, 15 Cooper's Row, Tower, London, E.C., have issued a new essence, essential oil, and perfumery list, of which they will send copies to wholesale buyers on application.

FRIEDMANN'S TUBERCULOSIS TREATMENT.—We learn from Dr. Weiss, of the Roborat Co., Ltd., 23 Cloth Fair, London, E.C., that Professor Piorkowski, partner of Dr. F. F. Friedmann, of Berlin, who is now in New York in connection with his cure for tuberculosis, is expected in London next week in order to give a lecture and demonstration to medical men on the principles and practice of Dr. Friedmann's treatment. We are also informed that the method is based upon approved and orthodox lines, and that the preparation used will soon be available for the English market.

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK.—Retail chemists who specialise in doing their customers' photographic developing, printing, and the like, find it pays indirectly as well as directly. It is to be hoped that Insurance Act dispensing will not influence any chemist to give it up, because photography is just as sure a thing as Insurance dispensing, and chemists can get assistance in the photographic work. Messrs. E. W. Bowes & Co., 122 Becklow Road, Shepherd's Bush, London, W., inform us that they are doing a great deal of this work for chemists, and they will be glad to supply any of our subscribers with their list of charges.

PERSONALITIES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. HENRY S. WELLCOME has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Medical Society.

SIR EDWARD EVANS has been nominated for re-election as Chairman of the Committee of the National Liberal Federation.

MR. F. J. HOUSTON, chemist, New Whittington, near Chesterfield, has undergone an operation for an internal complaint, and is making good progress.

SIR THOMAS BARCLAY, of Messrs. Southall Bros. and Barclay, Ltd., Birmingham, sailed for Marseilles on Friday, March 7, then he was to go to the Riviera to join Lady Barclay, who has been there for some time.

MR. RALPH M. LING, chemist and druggist, Church Street, Cromer, has been appointed Junior Warden, and Mr. David Dulley, chemist and druggist, of Church Street, Secretary of the Baring Lodge of Freemasons, Cromer.

MR. W. H. GRIMSHAW, President of the N.E. Lancashire Chemists' Association, received on March 6 the Southport Challenge Cup, he having been in charge of the rink of the Blackburn Caledonian Curling Club, which carried off this trophy in open competition. The President of the club mentioned that Mr. Grimshaw had made so favourable an impression with local curlers that he had been chosen to play in the international match between England and Scotland.

MR. JOSEPH ATTO, who has been in the employ of Messrs. Dakin Bros., Ltd., wholesale druggists, 82 Middlesex Street, London, E.C., for over fifty-four years, is the subject of an appreciation in the "Irish Cyclist," on the occasion of his election as President of the Pickwick Bicycle Club. Mr. Atto, who is known to his cycling friends as "Nathaniel Pipkin," attains his eightieth birthday in April next, and is probably the most remarkable cyclist in Britain. He has won many prizes, including, at the age of sixty, two Pickwick medals and a special prize for the best club performance. Probably Mr. Atto's greatest feat was when he finished sixth out of twenty-two competitors in the classic North Road twenty-four hours' race.

BUSINESS CHANGES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. P. E. F. PERRÉDÈS, Ph.C., has recently acquired the pharmacy at 82 High Street, Lowestoft.

MESSRS. HEPELL & Co. are opening a branch pharmacy at 26 Piccadilly, London, W. (under Piccadilly Hotel).

MR. S. CLARKE, chemist and druggist, has purchased the branch business of Mr. R. Colwill at 122 Lordship Lane, Dulwich, S.E.

MR. HAROLD RAYNE, chemist and optician, 22 Brigstock Road, Thornton Heath, is opening a branch at 361 Wandsworth Road, London, S.W.

MR. T. R. HAYTON, chemist and druggist, has acquired the business lately carried on by Mr. D. Edwards, chemist and druggist, at 14 The Causeway, Teddington.

MR. E. J. WILSON, chemist and druggist, 27 High Street, Wells, Somerset, has disposed of his business to Mr. J. W. Normansell, Ph.C.

MR. WHITMORE BAKER, pharmacist, has removed from 288 Elgin Avenue, London, W., to 239 exactly opposite his old premises, these having been acquired for a tube station. His new premises are next to those of Mr. Holmes Keall, also a pharmacist.

THE PARTNERSHIP between Messrs. H. J. Deacon and H. H. Pay, trading as H. Thomas & Co., chemists, 14 South Colonnade, St. Leonards-on-Sea, is now dissolved, the business having been sold to Mr. H. F. Baird, chemist and druggist. Accounts up to March 8 should be sent to Mr. H. J. Deacon, Cotlands, Brownlow Road, Croydon.

TRADE-MARKS.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications must be stated on Form T.M. No. 7 (obtainable at Money Order Offices for £1) and lodged with Mr. W. Temple Franks, Comptroller-General, Patents Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned.

The figures in parentheses refer to the classes in which the marks are desired, for a list of which, with particulars as to registration, see "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," p. 444.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," February 19, 1913.)

"KNIGHTLING," for goods (47) and for perfumery, etc. (48); "TRIXIE," for soap (48). By John Knight, Ltd., Silvertown, London, E. 348,330/1, 348,444.

"URBAN"; for perfumery, etc. (48). By J. Barrington & Sons, Ltd., 202 Great Britain Street, Dublin. 345,722.

"HENRICO"; for concentrated perfumery oils (48). By H. Haensel, Waisensstrasse 9, Pirna-on-Elbe, Germany. 346,556.

"BRYSTA"; for perfumery, etc. (48). By The Wholesale Chemical-works, 114 Copenhagen Street, London, N. 348,446.

Three-label devices, including picture of mountain range; for medicinal chemicals (3). By E. C. De Witt & Co., Ltd., 44 and 45 Rathbone Place, London, W. 348,026/028/029.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," February 26, 1913.)

"ALBUSLITE"; for chemicals (1). By A. Boake Roberts & Co., Ltd., 100 Carpenter's Road, Stratford. 348,069.

"MOTENOL" and "EVALAX"; for photographic chemicals (1), and for all goods (3). By Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., 56 Hanover Street, Liverpool. 349,103, 348,667.

Pictures of two dogs, and two fowls shaking hands, with words "How are you? Have you had your Molassine?"; for veterinary chemicals (2), and for animal food (42). By The Molassine Co., Ltd., Tunnel Avenue, East Greenwich. 348,177, 348,176.

"VERRUCIN"; for veterinary chemicals (2). By B. C. Tipper & Son, 43 Homer Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham. 349,181.

"SUBROSA" and "BILLIKEN," with picture of same; for perfumed soap (48), and for perfumery, etc. (48). By C. Thomas & Bros., Ltd., Broad Plain Soap Works, Bristol. 347,558, 348,355.

- Label with words " 'SURE CURE' EMBROCATION," etc., and facsimile signature "H. J. HUNT"; for embrocation for horses and cattle (2). By J. Herbert & Co., Sackford Hall, Woodbridge, Suffolk. 347,816.
- "SAGROTAN"; for disinfectants and antiseptics (2). By Schülke & Mayr, Moorfuhrweg 13 and 15, Hamburg. 349,080.
- Scroll label device including words "SALT COMPOUND"; for a medicine (3). By A. Brunot, 10 Rue de Chailott, Paris. 345,882.
- "VERONIDIA"; for a medicine (3). By A. F. Buisson, 20 Boulevard du Montparnasse, Paris. 346,076.
- "LUMOS"; for goods (3 and 48). By P. Harris & Co., Ltd., 144 and 146 Edmund Street, Birmingham. 348,312/13.
- "HEROBALM, A PRECIOUS OINTMENT"; for an ointment (3). By D. McNeil, 1 Clydeview Terrace, Glasgow. 348,583.
- "BRONCUROL"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By E. Thompson, 25 Sefton Drive, Liverpool. 348,772.
- "BONCID"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By A. Underwood, Brierley, Park Lane, Congleton, Cheshire. 348,818.
- "NUVOSOL"; for medicated food (3). By E. S. Prather, 258 Westminster Bridge Road, London, S.E. 348,862.
- "TRICALCOL"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By Dr. Walthar Wolff & Co., Simonstrasse 112-120, Elberfeld, Germany. 348,968.
- "RESPERMO" and "REVITO"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By W. H. Worsley, 21 Royal Crescent, Holland Park, London, W. 349,063/4.
- Picture of leaf with words " 'GREEN LEAF' LENSES " ("Green Leaf" disclaimed); for tinted lenses for spectacles, etc. (8). By J. Baird, 68 and 70 Mitchell Street, Glasgow. 348,247.

POISONING FATALITIES.

EIGHT deaths from poisoning have been reported this week.

Atropine.—The Lambeth Coroner (Mr. G. P. Wyatt) inquired on March 10 into the death of Lavinia Frances Smith (43), the wife of a Brixton electrical engineer. Deceased's husband said that his wife had suffered from asthma and nervousness for nine years, and was under medical treatment. Among other drugs she had taken to relieve her were bromide and "Asthmol." The Coroner: What is that—a patent medicine?—Witness: It is a proprietary article, I believe, and is to be obtained of any chemist. The Coroner asked witness if he knew what another bottle found contained. Witness replied in the negative. He said deceased got it in Edinburgh, whence she only returned last Friday. On Sunday morning he was awakened by hearing deceased vomiting. He asked what was the matter, and she replied, "I've taken asthmol." A few minutes later she became unconscious, and died soon after the doctor arrived. Dr. W. J. Robertson said his *post-mortem* showed symptoms of atropine-poisoning. The Coroner: Rather a rapid death, was it not?—Witness: Yes. She must have taken a tremendous lot. The Coroner: Do you know what this other stuff is? Witness: No. The Coroner: It is supposed to be inhaled. It would be safe to do that, I suppose? Witness: Yes. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide while of unsound mind."

Carbolic Acid.—At Belfast, Samuel Wilson, a caulker, drank carbolic acid and died in hospital. At the inquest, Mr. Francis Lindsay, registered druggist, 200 Newtonards Road, proved to selling deceased, who said he wanted it for disinfecting, sixpennyworth of the acid. A verdict of "Death from carbolic-acid poisoning" was returned.

Laudanum poisoning caused the death at Derby of James Nelson (51). An open verdict was returned at the inquest.

Prussic Acid.—At the resumed inquest on Edward O'Brien, of 20 Dunville Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin, described as a chemist and commercial traveller, a verdict was found that death was due to poisoning by prussic acid.

Salt of Lemon.—Ethel Martha Brears (26), domestic servant, Barnsley, died as a result of taking salt of lemon.

Spirits of Salt.—Peter Longden (33), commercial traveller, Gorton, committed suicide by taking this poisonous fluid.—A man who walked into the Royal Sussex County Hospital at Brighton, giving his address as Chalk Farm Road, Kentish Town, London, told the house physician that he had taken spirits of salt. He died soon afterwards.

Weed-killer.—John Edward Hall (19), gardener, poisoned himself at Llandudno by taking some weed-killer.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

Council-meeting.

THE Council met at 67 Lower Mount Street on Wednesday, March 5, Mr. D. M. Watson, Vice-President, in the chair. The following were also present: Mr. G. D. Biggs (treasurer), Dr. Charles J. B. Dunlop, Messrs. Thos. Batt, R. Blair, J. H. Bowden, J. E. Connor, James Michie, W. F. Wells, and P. N. White.

The Chairman said that the President was not able to attend that day, as another engagement prevented him.

A NEW ZEALAND ACT.

The Registrar (Mr. A. T. Ferrall) read a letter from the Colonial Office transmitting a copy of a New Zealand Act, entitled "An Act to amend the Pharmacy Act, 1908." There was, Mr. Ferrall said, an analysis which gave an idea of what the Act is. One provision is that "person" shall include "Corporation." The Act also provides that chemists shall be exempt from serving on juries and that it shall be unlawful for chemists to pay commission on prescriptions to medical practitioners.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Letters were submitted from the following notifying changes in their addresses:

- J. M. Torrens, Ph.C., to 85 North Main Street, Youghal.
C. E. Hill, Ph.C., to Belmont Lodge, Waterford.
J. Kelly, Ph.C., to 357 Burrow's Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
W. Robinson, Ph.C., to Medical Hall, Ramelton, co. Donegal.
W. Meek, Ph.C., to Seymour Street, Ballymoney.
James B. Doran, Ph.C., to Grey Hospital, King William's Town.
Francis Boyle, R.D., to 210 Falls Road, Belfast.

CHANGE OF NAME.

The Registrar submitted a letter from Mrs. Isabella Charles (née Unsworth, registered druggist), of Dromore, Ballynahinch, co. Down, notifying change of name on her marriage.

APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION.

The Registrar submitted letters from the Principals of the Municipal Technical School, Ballymena, and of the Municipal Technical Institute, Belfast, applying for recognition as regards theoretical chemistry. It was decided to grant the application of the Belfast Technical Institute, and the Registrar was directed to inform the Principal that the theoretical chemistry course must precede the compulsory practical course. The application of the Ballymena Technical School was referred to the Law Committee, and the Registrar was requested to write to the Principal asking him to forward a syllabus.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

Messrs. P. T. Callanan, H. Gillespie, and P. Leo, who submitted certificates from other bodies, were admitted to Preliminary registration.

The Registrar submitted a certificate of the death of Mr. Cornelius Crowley, Ph.C., of Tralee, co. Kerry.

Thanks were accorded for donations from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of copy of the registers, 1913, and from the Smithsonian Institution of sixteen pamphlets, being extracts from report for 1911.

On the motion of Mr. Michie, seconded by Mr. Bowden, Mr. James Moles, B.L., was re-elected examiner for the Preliminary examination.

MEMBERSHIP.

The following were elected to membership:

- W. J. Balmer, Ph.C., Strandtown Medical Hall, Belfast.
J. P. English, Ph.C., Castlereagh.
G. A. McL. Lee, Ph.C., 69 Upper Sackville Street, Dublin.
Dr. J. A. Molyneux, Ph.C., Denny Street, Tralee.

James E. Cooke, Ph.C., Gorey, co. Wexford, was nominated for membership.

Reports were received from the Law Committee and from the House Committee and were adopted.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Evening Meeting.

THE fourth evening meeting of the present session was held on March 11 in the Lecture Theatre, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C. The President (Mr. C. B. Allen) was in the chair, supported by Professor H. G. Greenish. There was an attendance of about fifty, including Professor A. W. Crossley, Mr. E. M. Holmes, Mr. F. Ransom, Mr. W. L. Howie, Mr. F. H. Carr, Mr. E. T. Brewis, Mr. H. Deane, Mr. H. Wippell Gadd, Mr. H. Finnemore, Mr. E. F. Harrison, Mr. R. R. Bennett, Mr. J. R. Wretts, and Mr. G. A. Tocher.

GALENICALS v. ACTIVE PRINCIPLES.

The President introduced Dr. H. A. D. Jowett as a former Beil Scholar and a Pereira medallist, and said he hoped the paper would be the first of a series. The paper, which was entitled "The Relation of Galenical Preparations to their Active Principles," occupied an hour in the delivery, and was brought forward, Dr. Jowett explained, with the object of placing before the meeting statements as to the extent to which active principles can adequately replace galenical preparations. An endeavour was made to state the advantages, disadvantages, and limitations of the use of active principles. He pointed out that while improved galenicals have been brought out by pharmacists, but little progress has been made in finding out the relation of the therapeutic action of galenical preparations and the same amount of active principles. After referring to Mr. J. H. E. Evans' remarks at Edinburgh last year that "it is open to question whether the practice of valuing drugs according to a recognised active principle is correct," the dictum of Mr. N. H. Martin at the International Congress of Applied Chemistry in 1909 was quoted that "the object of pharmaceutical chemistry should be to discover in what physical and chemical condition active principles exist in the plant, so as to be able to present to medicine the principle in a form which will faithfully represent the combination which exists in the natural condition." It is a question, said Dr. Jowett, whether the natural combination of the alkaloid was the best form of administration in medicine, but it has been stated that morphine meconate has a greater physiological effect than the hydrochloride. Then there is the question of how far the actions of active principles are modified by weaker drugs. Narcotine added to morphine increases the activity of the latter. The ultimate end of pharmaceutical science is to ensure that a remedy shall be of invariable and constant strength, and this cannot be accomplished without standardising by active principles. How far this can be carried out in the present state of knowledge was the next consideration. For this purpose the lecturer divided galenicals into four classes:

1. Those where our knowledge is sufficient to warrant the statement that the galenical can be adequately and efficiently replaced by the active principle or a combination of active principles. Examples: Jaborandi, physostigma, coca, and ergot.
2. Those cases where it is doubtful whether the active principles represent the full activity of the drug. Examples: Opium, cinchona, and the solanaceous drugs.
3. Where the therapeutic action is attributed to one active principle but is affected by another. Examples: Nux vomica and digitalis.
4. Those drugs whose active principles are not known with certainty. Examples: The vegetable purgatives and cannabis indica.

The lecturer then studied these classes in detail. In the case of jaborandi the activity of the drug has been shown by Marshall to be due to the pilocarpine and isopilocarpine, so that a standardised solution of these alkaloids could well replace the liquid extract and tincture, which are only in small demand. In the case of physostigma the alkaloidal content varies considerably and the assay of the total alkaloids is difficult. There is no difficulty in determining eserine apart from the other alkaloids, and as the alkaloid is used mainly in surgery a salt of

eserine appears to be all that is needed. Then with coca the question arises as to whether cocaine cannot replace the liquid extracts which have the same therapeutic action. It is true that coca extract can be standardised to cocaine, but the alkaloid hydrolyses on keeping. To confirm this a series of analyses was shown extending over a long time. Another objection to the use of coca galenicals is that they contain γ -isatropyl-cocaine, a constituent devoid of anæsthetic action and a powerful heart-poison. The cocaine-tests have been devised to exclude this alkaloid. The lecturer concluded that cocaine and its salts might be used in place of galenicals. The activity of ergot has been shown to be due to the combination of ergotoxin (the principle that causes gangrene in the cock's comb) and two bases. One of these actually lowers the blood-pressure, but the other, *p*-hydroxyphenylethylamine, causes a rise in pressure like ergotoxine. The combination represents the activity of the drug, and when physicians indicate the particular effect they require it can be produced.

Dealing next with Class 2, Dr. Jowett said the drugs in this contain numerous active principles. Opium has yielded twenty-two alkaloids which occur in varying amounts and are of different physiological action. Morphine and codeine are extensively used, but extended trials have not been made with combinations of alkaloids. Laudanum is still largely employed, and to replace it there has been introduced a preparation of the total alkaloids as hydrochlorides. The tincture is standardised to morphine, but this does not ensure an unvarying preparation. To what is the efficacy of laudanum due? Is it to the whole of the alkaloids, and are the properties of some of these modified by others? This is a problem that is being attacked now, but it is known that narcotine and papaverine influence the action of morphine when mixed with it in certain proportions. Laudanum is not likely for some years to be replaced by alkaloids. Cinchona is a similar example to opium. Here one alkaloid, quinine, is used in a largely increasing ratio, but cinchona febrifuge, galenical preparations, and even powdered bark are much employed, and, moreover, are stated to have advantages not possessed by quinine. The alkaloids in the solanaceous drugs are all similar, but activity depends upon the combinations of the various alkaloids. It is impracticable to assay for the different alkaloids, but the pure salts can be prepared and combined as the physician desires. Nux vomica was the chief example of drugs in Class 3, and here it was shown that *tr. nucis vom.* possesses several advantages over liq. strychn. It can be prescribed in several combinations without precipitation of strychnine, which takes place when a solution of the alkaloid of the same strength is employed. The disadvantages of standardising for the combined strychnine and brucine were referred to. In the case of digitalis the activity of the digitoxin is affected by saponins. The last group contains chiefly vegetable purgatives and cannabis indica. In the case of cascara and rhubarb no definite information is obtainable as to the active principles, despite the large amount of work which has been done on these drugs. The activity of aloes does not alone reside in the aloin, as aloes freed from aloin is still active. Marshall's work on cannabis indica was mentioned, and the lecturer related his personal experiences after taking cannabinal and a corresponding quantity of extract. With the former pleasant effects were obtained, but the results were very different in the case of the extract.

DISCUSSION.

The PRESIDENT said Dr. Jowett had given pharmacists much food for reflection. As a practical pharmacist he was much interested in the old galenicals. Older medical practitioners aver that nothing acts like laudanum or opium. The quantity of *tr. nucis vom.* employed is almost incredible. Cannabis indica is a most unsatisfactory drug; it sometimes exercises extraordinary effects. The speaker recounted how, many years ago, when coca-leaves were introduced, he tested them by chewing them, but the effect was to make him violently sick.

Mr. GADD said he admired Dr. Jowett's pharmaceutical and chemical skill rather than his logical faculties. He considered the conclusions to be based on insufficient data. Hale White once laid it down that a hundred cases under hospital conditions are needed before a particular effect can

be attributed to a drug. The lecturer's selection of Calabar bean as an example of where galenicals fail is particularly unfortunate, as the galenical process of the Pharmacopœia is very faulty. He had seen it stated that the cheering qualities of a cup of tea are due to the caffeine and hot water, but anyone who tried such a combination would have no difficulty in agreeing that there are other things which contribute to the activity and pleasantness of tea.

Mr. HARRISON was concerned chiefly as to the practical issues of the paper. Is it that more than one alkaloid should be standardised? It would be a step in the right direction to fix maxima and minima of several alkaloids, or it would be necessary to work on very large quantities of material and mix the various seasons' supplies to obtain a uniform product. He characterised as retrograde the recommendation of the Brussels Conference on Heroic Medicaments to standardise nux vomica by total alkaloids. He objected also to the assumption that the natural combination of an alkaloid is necessarily the best. "We improve on nature in all sorts of ways," he said amid laughter.

Mr. FINNEMORE said he agreed as to the importance of the question as to how far medicinal action is influenced by inert constituents. The solvents employed also have an important influence, and possibly the rate of absorption of the strychnine is influenced by the alcohol in tr. nucis vom. The great difficulty at the present time seems to be to get clinical or pharmacological evidence as to the effect of drugs. The British Medical Association is now so much occupied with politics that the Therapeutic Committee do not seem to have time for such work. Cost is another matter that would influence the use of active principles, a solution of strychnine being much cheaper than tr. nucis vom. on account of the alcohol in the latter.

Dr. JOWETT, in reply, said that Mr. Gadd had somewhat misunderstood him. He (the lecturer) stated that only in a very few cases is there the necessary pharmacological and clinical evidence that galenicals can be adequately and efficiently replaced by active principles. Much more investigation is needed, and not a hundred but a thousand cases are required to prove several doubtful points. There is a case both for and against the use of active principles and galenicals, but the ultimate end must be the use of active principles, the proportion of which may be varied to suit particular cases. He held that Mr. Martin's contention is a fallacy. The proper way of standardising nux vomica would be to require so much total alkaloid, of which a certain proportion should be strychnine. It is a tall order to carry out standardisation much further in the case of hyoscyamus and belladonna. As to the relative cost of active principles and galenicals, he thought this should not be considered in the case of life and death.

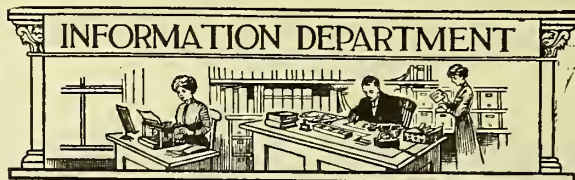
LIQUORICE AND SENNA.

The second paper, by Professor H. G. Greenish and Miss Dorothy J. Bartlett (Redwood Scholar), was a communication from the Research Laboratory. It was an account of the examination of thirty-two samples of powdered liquorice bought from various sources. Having regard to the recommendation of the Committee of Reference of Pharmacy that the powder should yield not less than 20 per cent. of aqueous extract and not more than 6 per cent. of ash, the authors found that three samples fell below the requirement for aqueous extract and nine exceeded the ash limit. Judging from the colour, some of the samples were prepared from root with dark patches. The authors did not consider that there was sufficient reason why the Pharmacopœia should exclude Russian liquorice, and they took exception to the vague wording of the monograph.

In the case of powdered senna twenty samples were examined, and these were free from actual adulteration, but some of them had been made from low-grade material, as shown by the absence of green colour and the presence of stalks and sand. Professor Greenish, who read the paper, said it is quite easy for the pharmacist to determine the quality of senna powder microscopically, and it need not take more than five minutes to examine a sample.

Votes of thanks to the authors of the papers concluded the meeting, the members adjourning to the Examination Hall for refreshments.

C. & D. SHOPS ACT NOTICE.—An inspector of shops under one of the County Councils, writing in regard to the notice-card which we publish for exhibition by chemists during closing hours on the half-holiday, says: "The notice seems to be as little objectionable to the shopkeeper as it can be made." We supply a pair of the notices for 8d., post free.



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Telephone Number: BANK 852 (two lines).

INFORMATION WANTED.

Would any reader who knows please inform us by postcard or telephone of the names and addresses of the agents or makers of the articles mentioned in the following inquiries:

- 253/48. "Cressol" dentifrice.
- 258/67. Briconet frères gelatin.
- 7/52. "Ziska" rose face-powder.
- 3/53. "Ozone Cartridges": makers.
- 1/11. Cannabin cinnamate: makers.
- 1/31. "Excoelsior" brand cod-liver oil.
- 251/39. Aloe-fibre extracting machinery.
- 4/55. "Foe's Medicinal": who supplies?
- 248/25. "Digal," a veterinary preparation.
- 259/10. Smith's "Pectodyne": proprietors.
- 237/3. "Solavo" remedies: address of makers.
- 239/73. "Pudenta" tooth-brush and tooth-powder.
- 232/62. Small-tooth combs (wooden), French make.
- 239/73. "Killynuco": present address of suppliers.
- 4/39. "Cutoxin Soap," veterinary soft-soap: makers.
- 6/13. Address of Tough Bros., makers of carbolised tow.
- 3/31. "Belequin" or "Belquin" (a cold-cure): supply.
- 250/37. Address in France of Gabrielle & Cie., parfumeurs.
- 2/28. "Steriline" grease remover: present address of makers.
- 5/65. "Charmides" toilet preparations: address of makers.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

During the past week we have answered inquiries as to where the following articles are obtainable wholesale. We shall be glad to repeat the information to others who send to this Department a stamped and addressed envelope for the purpose.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Aethone, 7/510 | Nitrolac, 237/43 |
| Almatein, 7/35 | Orthoform, 2/271 |
| Automatic weighing machines, 6/30 | Ozone, 6/120 |
| Azodermmin, 2/270 | Pedicures, 4/71 |
| Barium chloride, 3/30 | "Pedonia" preparations, 6/40 |
| Barytes (first-hand supply), 2/66 | Pheniminol, 2/27 |
| Bedrests, makers, 6/14 | Phospho cocoa, 2/26 |
| Bilein, 7/51 | Pinaud's perfumery (London agents), 5/4 |
| Bob Martin's dog-powders, 4/34 | Porgès' catheters, 254/65 |
| Carbolic tooth-powder (penny tins), 5/56 | Potassium chloride, 3/300 |
| Caustic-soda sticks (packed in tins), 4/70 | Poudre de Santé, 1/29 |
| Dearborn specialties, 6/44 | Raub's cutaneous soap, 7/43 |
| "Duraline" glass measures, 4/48 | "Red Cross" toilet-rolls, 4/15 |
| Glycerin-making plant (for Asia Minor), 4/56 | Rowland's macassar oil, 7/42 |
| Gordon's medicated Manila toilet-paper, 1/30 | Seitz filters (South African inquiry), 255/17 |
| Granulating machinery (French inquiry), 4/10 | Shellac, 2/66 |
| Label printers, 6/46 | Simpson's "Odin," 3/54 |
| Liquid sulphur (for use in baths), 2/42 | Sodax, 5/36 |
| | Taylor's cimolite, 7/52 |
| | Tooth-powder canisters, makers, 5/64 |
| | Trade-mark agents (Belgium, etc.), 4/65 |
| | Vitrella, 258/37 |
| | "Walkeezie," for corns, 6/12 |

APPRECIATION.

From a Toilet Specialist:

"I must thank you again for this further proof of the practical service and utility of your 'Information Department,' a column in the welcome C. & D. which invariably takes priority of the many claims to a reader's attention." (256/48.)

THE TALC SYNDICATE of Austria-Hungary has issued its first report. The Syndicate was founded on March 29, 1912, and includes most of the important members of the industry. The objects of the Syndicate are to give information regarding the production, sources of supply, quality, uses, and tests for Austrian talc.

OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS.

By Xrayser II.

'Not Worth the Trouble'

when one Lancashire house is so overwhelmed with orders that they called in all their travellers for a week! "Not worth the trouble" when the National Insurance benefits have considerably increased the consumption of cod-liver oil in this country! "Not worth the trouble" when, according to the daily papers, the Pharmaceutical Society is about to propose the institution of an assistant's qualification with a view to coping with the immense amount of new work being thrown on the chemist! "Not worth the trouble" when a committee has just been appointed to inquire into the alleged shortage of facilities for the rapid supply of medicines! Surely these are ominous reasons for a further reduction in the number of panel chemists in Birmingham. It does seem to me that our Midland friends are premature in throwing up the sponge before they have finished the first round. They might at least have waited till the end of the first quarter before they decided to leave the panel. Their unnecessary haste appears to be playing into the hands of the stores, qualified and unqualified, and it seems as if we are in danger of repeating the mistake of the 'eighties, when the failure of the chemists of those days to adjust themselves to the changing conditions of pharmacy gave the "stores" the footing which enabled them to consolidate a position from which they have never receded.

We Must Not Mince Matters

in opposing before the Committee the claim to Insurance dispensing put forth by the drug-store people. There is, of course, absolutely no such analogy as they seek to establish between their position now and that of the non-pharmaceutical chemists in 1868, and the absurdity of their contention to the contrary must be exposed. Every chemist then, whether examined or not, had an equal right to a share in the benefits of the Pharmacy Act. Those who did not belong to the Pharmaceutical Society had the same qualification as most of those who did (for the founders and early members were unexamined men), and justice demanded that they should be admitted to the benefits of the Act on the same terms. Their right was a natural one, the right to Insurance dispensing is a statutory one, and there is all the difference in the world between the one and the other. How do the men who now claim the latter stand towards it? For years they have refused to qualify themselves for the work as the law prescribes; many of them have failed to do so through sheer inability, others in a spirit of hostility. They have habitually sailed as near the wind of the law as it was safe to do, and have at the same time held it up to ridicule. The power they have thus flouted they now seek to bluff; they say, We will not submit ourselves to your ridiculous tests, but we demand to be treated as if we had passed them. Such effrontery is almost sublime.

'Nil Desperandum'

did well to write, and you to print, his little account of how he proved that he was not too old at thirty-four to negotiate the Minor examination. His fine example is well worth the space you give it, *pour encourager les autres*. For there must be hundreds, perhaps thousands, of others who have neglected the golden opportunities of youth and for whom there now remains

only the comparative penury of the unqualified assistant's meagre wage. Of these men there must be many who, with a little of your correspondent's grit and determination, would be perfectly able to overcome the difficulties that face a married man in his efforts to qualify. One such I myself have known. He came to me one day in distress with the news that his employer had given him notice to leave, could I give him a berth? He, too, was married and well over thirty, and not even the Preliminary to his credit. My answer was, I fear, hard-hearted, for after talking out the whole situation all I could say was, "Qualify and I will give you a position." He there and then determined he would and told me that the next time I saw him he would be qualified. I shook my head for I had heard that story before. But he came back two years later and he did not want a position as his employer was only too glad to take him back as a manager. This happened less than ten years ago.

The Drug-habit

has evidently assumed enormous proportions in the United States, and it is natural to ask why the consumption of narcotics should be so much greater there than in any other country with regard to which statistics are available. There is little doubt that it lies in the terrific strain of life under the conditions there obtaining; as the old proverb says, it is the pace that kills, and America is paying the penalty of unnatural speed. The crusade against alcoholic stimulants, outwardly at least more thoroughgoing there than here, may contribute to the result, but the chief cause is the feverish haste which wears down the nerves and exhausts the energies until some artificial recuperant (if I may coin the word) is necessary. Americans, if not actually "decadent," are more obviously in danger of becoming so than we of the older countries, and the greater prevalence of the drug-habit among them is another evidence of the fact. The same cause is having a similar effect here too, but to a less extent.

The Lecture on Herbals

delivered by Mr. H. Barlow-English before the Royal Society of Medicine contains a few statements not quite in accordance with what is said by Mrs. Arber in her scholarly work on the subject recently published by the Cambridge University Press. Banckes's Herbal was, as the lecturer said, published in 1525, Banckes being the publisher merely. But the book known as Cary's or Copland's was, like Askham's and Kynge's, a much later edition, and probably did not appear until 1550. The "Grete Herball" (1526) was a translation of the French "Le Grand Herbier," formerly supposed to have been founded on the "Ortus Sanitatis" (published at Mainz in 1491), but now said to be derived from a work commonly called "Circa instans," the manuscript of which is in the Biblioteca Estense at Modena. A slightly different version of this was printed at Ferrara in 1488. Turner's Herbal was not *merely* devoted to the identification of the plants mentioned by Dioscorides, since the third part, added in 1568, is occupied with plants "whereof is no mention made neither by Grecianes nor Latines." Lyte, again, though ostensibly only a translator, adds, says Mrs. Arber, matter of his own, and he certainly has references to the works of Turner and Lobel, the latter of whom wrote, not after him, as Mr. Barlow-English seems to say, but eight years before him. I gather from the verses by T. N. prefixed to my addition of Lyte (the first) that some of the additions he made to the French of de l'Ecluse were supplied to him direct by Dodoens, but something he added of his own. As his friend says:

"For English names to every herbe and plant
He added hath, whereby is nothing skant."

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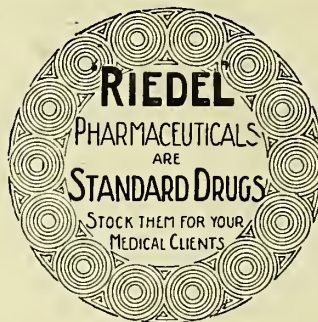
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LIQUORS

Editorial Articles.

A New Epoch in Pharmacy.

XI. Perversion.

IN the matter of Medical Benefit under the National Insurance Act there is still a good deal of misunderstanding as to where the doctor's functions end and the chemist's begin. A correspondent asks us if he may continue to supply to an insured person, and at that person's expense, a medicine which a panel doctor prescribes for him without a fresh prescription. We consider that it would be bad policy and should not be done. Many reasons could be adduced in support of this view, but there is little occasion for arguing the matter, because the regulations issued by the Commissioners in respect to insured persons under treatment cover such conduct, which, in our opinion, is a perversion of the intentions of the Act, and an invasion of the doctor's province by the chemist and the insured person

jointly. We have heard of no cases of the kind actually occurring. On the other hand, complaints are not uncommon in regard to doctors endeavouring, by offering to supply insured persons with medicine, to pervert the intention of the Act to relegate dispensing of medicines to those entitled to carry on the business of a chemist. We have been informed of cases in which panel doctors actually exhibit in their consulting-rooms placards worded "Insured persons can have their medicines dispensed here by paying — a bottle." Others who feel that this is going too far supply medicines free, so as to keep their quondam paying patients from going elsewhere for their physic. Three weeks ago we informed a correspondent that "There is nothing in the Act or regulations to prevent doctors supplying free physic or to compel them to write prescriptions for chemists to dispense." A doctor's dispenser informs us that his employer wrote on January 22 to the County Insurance Committee asking if he could give medicines to insurance patients. The clerk replied:

"Under the terms of the Act it is essential that drugs should be dispensed by a chemist for insured persons, except in particular cases mentioned in the Act and Regulations. The Insurance Committee would therefore have no power to allow practitioners to dispense for their patients, even although they made no charge for such dispensing."

This statement is not contrary to our reply of February 22, as obviously there is no question of the committee's consent in the matter. Nevertheless, we considered the subject of sufficient interest for consideration by the Commissioners, to whom we submitted a statement, and we append the reply received:

National Health Insurance Commission (England),
Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.,

March 6, 1913.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 3rd instant, I am directed by the National Health Insurance Commission (England) to inform you that a doctor on the panel is required by the terms of his agreement with the Insurance Committee to order on the form prescribed by the Committee for the purpose such drugs and prescribed appliances as are requisite for the treatment of any patient. An insured person has the right to obtain such drugs and appliances free of cost from any chemist on the list, on production of the order from the doctor.

It is not open to a doctor on the panel to refrain from giving to an insured person the order for the requisite drugs and appliances, or to take any action which would obscure the right of the insured person to obtain, if he so desires, such drugs and appliances from a chemist on the list.

A doctor on the panel who supplies medicines without payment either by the insured person or the Insurance Committee does not, however, thereby infringe any provision of the Act or of the Regulations, and as regards your further question I am to state that while an insured person has the right to obtain prescribed medicines from a chemist on the list, he cannot be compelled to avail himself of his rights, should he voluntarily prefer to obtain his medicine in some other way.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

E. MacGowan.

This is much more to the point than the answer which Mr. Masterman has given to Mr. Needham (see Westminster Wisdom). It also shows that our statement of February 22 was correct, and that the matter is one of those which may have to be dealt with by Local Medical Committees under Medical Benefit Regulations 54 and 55, which give the Committees power to recommend the Commissioners to remove from the medical panel the name of any practitioner found to act prejudicially to the efficiency of the medical service. Similar action may be taken under Regulation 56 as to the conduct of

chemists. We trust that the necessity for such action will rarely arise, but knowledge of the existence of the provisions should be more general than it is.

Scheduling Hypnotics.

THE loosely drafted resolution for rescheduling sulphonal and scheduling veronal and their allied hypnotics, which was passed by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society on March 6, 1912, evidently proved unacceptable to the Privy Council, and, after another abortive attempt in February, a more suitable form of wording was adopted by the Pharmaceutical Society last week. This, Mr. White (the Vice-President) stated, there is good reason to believe will be acceptable to the Lords in Council. We dealt with the original resolution just a year ago (*C. & D.*, 1912, I., 409), and we refer our readers to that article for the chemistry of the subject, which was mainly responsible for the delay in acceptance of the resolution. The two resolutions are as follows:

Resolution of March 6, 1912.

That by virtue and in exercise of the powers vested in the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain by Section 2 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, as modified by Section 2 of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, the said Council does hereby resolve and declare as follows:—

(a) That "sulphonal" be removed from Part II. of the schedule to the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, and that "sulphonal, its derivatives, and the poisonous derivatives of mercaptol," be substituted therefor.

(b) That "diethyl-barbituric acid and other derivatives of barbituric acid and all poisonous ureides and their derivatives" ought to be deemed poisons within the meaning of the Pharmacy Acts, and ought to be added to Part II. of the schedule to the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908.

Resolution of March 5, 1913.

That by virtue, and in exercise of the powers vested in the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain by Section 2 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, as modified by Section 1 of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, the said Council does hereby resolve and declare as follows:—

(a) That "sulphonal" be removed from Part II. of the Schedule to the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, and that "Sulphonal and its homologues, whether described as trional, tetral, or by any other trade name, mark, or designation," be substituted therefor.

(b) That diethyl barbituric acid and other alkyl, aryl, or metallic derivatives of barbituric acid, whether described as veronal, propional, medinal, or by any other trade name, mark, or designation; and all poisonous urethanes and ureides ought to be deemed poisons within the meaning of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, as amended by the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, and ought to be deemed poisons in the second part of the "Schedule of Poisons" to that Act.

The new wording (in italics) makes Part (a) of the resolution cover "reversed sulphonal" as well as sulphonal, trional, and tetral. Part (b) covers veronal, medinal or veronal-sodium, propional (dipropyl-malonyl urea), luminal (phenylethyl barbituric acid), and codeonal (codeine and sodium diethyl barbiturates), and higher alkyl derivatives of malonyl urea, such as di-isobutyl malonyl-urea.

The Vice-President, in moving the resolution, regretted introducing technical language into the Poisons Schedule, but synthetic chemical products make this necessary, he added. Another innovation is the reference to trade-marked products, but we understand that this is due to the Privy Council. Mr. White promised to write an explanatory note on the subject. This will not be an easy task. Ruling out allantoin and the oxypurin group (caffeine, theobromine, theophylline, etc.) as non-poisonous ureides, the question arises if certain hypnotics closely allied to diethyl-barbituric acid are to be regarded as its derivatives. Adalin (diethyl-bromo-acetyl-urea) is no longer a ureide, because it is an open-chain compound, while the differences in the ureide residue are sufficient to claim that it is not a derivative of diethyl-barbituric acid. These considerations apply with greater force to bromural (alpha-brom-isovalerianyl urea), achibromin (mono-brom-isovalerianyl glycolic urea), and achijodin

(mono-iodo-valerianyl glycooll urea). None of these can be designated as poisonous. In this connection it is noteworthy that if these are regarded as derivatives of diethyl-barbituric acid they would be scheduled whether poisonous or not. Urol (urea quinate), ursal (urea salicylate), ureabromin (calcium bromide and urea), and quimorol (quinine and urea hydrochlorides) are excluded, not being ureides or urethanes. The introduction of the word "urethane" into the resolution brings quite a number of hypnotics within the possible range of the Poisons Schedule. The grouping "R.O.CO.NH." is characteristic of this type of substance. Those used in medicine are:

Urethane (ethyl carbamate).
Ethylidene-urethane.
Propyl-urethane.
Chloral-urethane.
Hedonal (methylpropyl-carbinol urethane).
Phenyl-urethane (euphorine).

Of these, chloral-urethane and perhaps hedonal and euphorine may be classed as poisonous. The inclusion of the last two in the Schedule of Poisons must be very doubtful. Only one fatality is reported from hedonal poisoning, and in this case it was used as an anæsthetic. From all this it is evident that even the considered third resolution does not presage plain sailing, but it overcomes the more obstructive of the difficulties raised by the first resolution, and the Vice-President's explanation may remove most of the rest.

Scheduled Patents: a Warning.

A PROVINCIAL pharmacist asks us to warn the trade in regard to the sale of stamped medicines which are known to contain poison. A strange customer came to him the other day for a bottle of a popular medicine which contains poison, and our correspondent forgot to put his name and address label upon it. This is the point of the warning. It is essential that retail vendors of such proprietary poisons should label them with their name and address. From another quarter we learn that the Pharmaceutical Society has taken proceedings against a non-registered retailer, who sold Wooldridge's tincture for gout and rheumatism. He was not aware that the article contains a scheduled poison, because there is nothing on the outside wrapper to indicate the fact, nor do the catalogues of proprietary-medicine houses, for the same reason, classify it as a poison. We find, however, the following statement on the label:

Labelled in accordance with the Sale of Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, which requires that all medicines containing poison, in however small a quantity, shall be labelled "Poisonous" and state name of poison.

POISONOUS.

This medicine contains a small proportion of colchicum, but is exactly the same as it has been for over sixty years.

We may recall the fact that in our issue of January 4, we printed a report which showed that the tincture contains colchicum. The label is incorrect, in using the word "poisonous" instead of "poison" and in saying that the name of the poison must be mentioned. We consider that the makers of any article, medicinal or otherwise, which contains a scheduled poison, should, for the guidance of wholesalers and retailers, indicate on the wrapper as well as upon the label that it is "poison." Registered chemists who in ignorance sell such preparations without affixing their name and address to the packages are liable to prosecution under Section 17 of

the 1868 Act, while unqualified persons who stock and sell it are liable under Section 15. We have before us letters from three leading wholesale houses in regard to the tincture. None of them had any idea that it contained a scheduled poison until they were told of the Pharmaceutical Society's action. One remarks: "This is a very arbitrary and unjust proceeding." Of course, the Society is to be commended for doing its duty, but in view of the fact that the case involves a new departure in principle—viz., inclusion in the schedule of preparations of colchicum, some warning might have been given by the Society. We give it now, but we would rather be without any *kudos* attaching to information of this character if the Society would devise some means whereby the trade, both wholesale and retail, qualified and unqualified (it affects all) should be informed in advance of matters of this kind.

Chemists and the Shops Act.

At present orders for half-day closing are being applied for and confirmed, without reference to the disability attendant upon them as regards dispensing of prescriptions or the sale of medicines and medical and surgical appliances. We, therefore, note that chemists' shops in places covered by such orders must be closed absolutely until 12 midnight on the early-closing day, and if opened in order to dispense a prescription the owner is liable to prosecution, subject to the defence that the article supplied was required in a case of illness, which he has to prove. All this trouble may be avoided by inserting in the application for the Early Closing Order a proviso as to dispensing or other desirable exemption. We are officially advised that this is the proper course to pursue, and that if the majority of chemists in any place express the desire to have all shops of their class closed absolutely they have themselves to thank if they are prosecuted afterwards for infringement of the order.

Substitution in Dispensing.

If our series of articles on the pharmaceutical aspects of National Insurance Medical Benefit is continued much longer, it may be necessary to make one of them "Substitution." We have before us a provincial "Pharmacopœia" in which the following prefatory notes occur:

"By an arrangement with the chemists of the town, the formulæ contained herein will be recognised for insured persons, except where preparations not in the tariff or the B.P. are included. In these cases equivalents will be substituted in accordance with a list issued by the Chemists' Association, the titles of the formulæ remaining the same."

"Proprietary articles not dispensed."

These *dicta*, both in regard to private arrangements and in relation to the supply of drugs and medicines for insured persons, are an incitement to illegal action, in so far as (in the latter case) it is obligatory upon chemists on the panel to supply what the doctor orders, and not to substitute, while in the former the substitution recommended, "the titles remaining the same," is the illegality familiarly known in the Law Courts as "passing-off."

Medical and Dental Registers.

"The Medical Register for 1913" (10s. 6d.) and "The Dentists' Register for 1913" (3s. 4d.) have been published this week by Constable & Co., Ltd., 10 Orange Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C. "The Medical Register" gives in the beginning the various Acts of Parliament which regulate the practice of medicine in this country, and then follow particulars of the General Medical Council and some interesting statistics. From the last-named it

appears that 1912 was a boom year, there being on the register at the end of the year 41,489 medical men, 1,157 names having been added. The previous year had been one of depression. The number of doctors has nearly doubled since 1876 when data were first preserved. The register occupies 1,815 pages. "The Dentists' Register" contains the names of 5,140 dentists, against 5,007 last year. The number of those registered without qualification at the passing of the Dentists Act, 1878, is now 1,669; it was 1,707 last year, and naturally must decline year by year. The two Registers are useful additions to the bookshelf of a pharmacy, as they settle in an authoritative manner the inquiries of customers as to the qualifications of their medical and dental attendants.

Uganda Medical Ordinance.

The acting Governor of the Uganda Protectorate drafted an Ordinance for introducing a system of medical registration into that country. It is founded on the East Africa Protectorate Medical Practitioners and Dentists Ordinance, 1910. The Colonial Secretary transmitted a copy of the Ordinance and correspondence relating thereto to the General Medical Council for their observations, and these were considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee on February 24. An interesting question was raised in the correspondence as to whether the Ordinance goes beyond the law as laid down in England. The following statement occurs in the letter of a firm of solicitors practising in Kampala, Uganda:

Your statement as to Mr. Bertie-Smith's position not being altered to his detriment is scarcely accurate. As we have already pointed out, he now enjoys the liberty he has in England of vending medicines, etc., and if he prescribes medicines the Apothecaries' Company can procure his being fined 5*l*. But under the proposed Ordinance recommending or prescribing a medicine or a hair-wash or a corn-plaster would probably be held to be practising medicine, and thus render him liable to a fine of 100*l*. and imprisonment for twelve months. And more than this, because, the law having become practically obsolete, pharmacists now commonly recommend or prescribe a medicine, and they are not interfered with, yet by doing the same here Mr. Bertie-Smith is to be fined or receive twelve months' imprisonment. Mr. Bertie-Smith does not wish to practise medicine, surgery, or dentistry, but he strenuously objects to being prosecuted and punished for doing what every pharmacist in England does.

The Executive of the General Medical Council, referring to this state that the Apothecaries Act, 1815, is still in force, and continues to be enforced from time to time in England, "and that accordingly the provisions of the Ordinance place persons who, not possessing medical qualifications, prescribe and dispense medicines for gain under the same legal restrictions as are now operative in England." The objection of the late Mr. Bertie-Smith's solicitors seems to be founded on section 11, which states that fees for surgical and medical advice "or for any medicine which he shall have prescribed and supplied" cannot be recovered unless the medical practitioner or dentist is registered, but the ground of the complaint is not stated by reference to any particular portion of the Ordinance.

British Trade in February.

Although 1912 was leap year and February contained one more working day than February 1913, the total imports rose last month by 4,077,115*l*. to 63,791,938*l*., or 6.8 per cent. more, and the exports, which were valued at 40,172,743*l*., rose by 2,682,414*l*., or 7.1 per cent.; as regards the re-export trade, the increase was only 21,632*l*., the values being 10,746,251*l*. We shall deal more fully with the matter next week.

National Health Insurance.

Administration of Medical Benefit as regards Chemists' Interests.

Departmental Committee on Tuberculosis.

The Committee appointed in February 1912, with Mr. Waldorf Astor, M.P., as chairman, to report upon the considerations of general policy which should guide the Government and local bodies in making provision for the treatment of tuberculosis in sanatoria or otherwise, has now issued a final report, in which the principal matters dealt with are the measures which should, in their opinion, be taken for the prevention of tuberculosis in general, with special reference to the questions relating to bovine tuberculosis, the safeguarding of the milk supply, tuberculosis in children, and a scheme for dealing with the annual sum of money available in the hands of the Insurance Commissioners under Section 16 (2) of the National Insurance Act for the purposes of research.

Medical Benefit Extension to Ireland.

Correspondence has passed between the Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland and the committee which is inquiring as to the proposed extension to Ireland of medical benefit under the National Insurance Act. The Society had appointed witnesses to give evidence before the committee in Belfast last week, but the committee declined to hear them, on the ground that the present sittings are not intended to be anything more than a preliminary inquiry in order to ascertain generally the trend of Irish opinion in this matter, so far as the two classes primarily affected—viz., insured persons and their employers—are concerned. The committee stated they are fully alive to the importance of giving the drug-trade a full opportunity of making representations from their point of view with regard to the question of medical benefit, but the opportune time for such representation would appear to be rather when the question of extending medical benefit to Ireland is definitely settled than at the present stage, when the inquiry is purely a preliminary one. Mr. Samuel Suffern, J.P., President, and Mr. Samuel Gibson, a Vice-President of the Society, had a private interview with Lord Ashby St. Ledger, chairman of the committee, at Belfast, and at the request of his Lordship prepared a statement of the case for him.

The only witness who touched on the drug-question during the Belfast sittings was Mr. John Murphy, Secretary of the Trades and Labour Council, who said he considered the old rate of 2*s*. 6*d*. per head for club doctors too little, and thought 4*s*. per head per annum would be a reasonable rate, and an extra 4*s*. per annum for the dependents of the insured, making 8*s*. per annum, including medicine, which should be supplied by a qualified chemist. He thought that 4*s*. per member would be a reasonable fee for the doctors, including drugs, and 1*s*. per quarter for the dependents, and his Council were strongly of the opinion that the medicine should be supplied by chemists. The doctors should have no interest in the sale of the drugs.

At the meeting of the committee, held in Dublin, on March 6 and 7, several witnesses were examined. It was apparent from some of the questions addressed to the witnesses that the possibility was entertained by some members of the committee of extending medical benefit to the urban centres and excluding the rural areas in Ireland. It is expected that the committee will take evidence in Ireland again during the Whitsuntide Parliamentary recess. Replying to Dr. Maguire, Miss Andrews, M.D., gave evidence of some of the customs prevailing in connection with the Belfast hospitals. As a rule, she said, out-patients had to pay for their medicine. The hospital with which she was connected simply gave the patient a prescription, and the patient got the medicine at an outside chemist's at a special rate. The usual custom in connection with the Belfast hospitals was that the hospital kept a dispensary, where the medicine was made up and where the patient paid for it. Dr. Maguire: "What is the fee charged for

the medicine in the hospital?"—"I can only answer for my own hospital. They charge one shilling an 8-oz. bottle. The usual price would be about one and sixpence."—"Is it paid to the hospital itself?"—"No; it is paid to the chemist. We simply prescribe. The patients pay the chemist. Sometimes they come back and say they have not got a bottle because they haven't the money." Mr. David Watson, Ph.C., and Mr. John Smith, Ph.C., were watching the proceedings on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

The Committee also sat in Cork on March 8 and heard evidence for and against the extension of medical benefit to Ireland.

Supply of Tuberculin, Vaccines, etc.

TUBERCULIN.—P. I. M. (239/58) supplied twelve tubes T.R. tuberculin (cost 20s.) ordered on a pink form by a panel doctor. Will the Insurance Committee pay for it? [No. The supply of tuberculin comes under the sanatorium provisions, and not under the Medical Benefit provisions. There is nothing in the Act or Regulations authorising chemists on the dispensing panel to supply tuberculin or other drugs for sanatorium treatment.]—*C. & D., February 22, index folio 299.*

We also advised our correspondent to communicate with the Clerk of the Cornwall Insurance Committee in regard to this, and the Clerk wrote to the Commissioners about the matter, with the result that the subjoined letter (dated March 6) has been received, and has been printed and circulated to the chemists and doctors in the county:

I.C. 6/36.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 22nd ultimo, I am directed by the National Health Insurance Commisison (England) to point out that a doctor, in prescribing, is not restricted to the drugs, etc., named in the drug tariff, which is merely a list of those ordinarily prescribed. Drugs, etc., not included in the tariff may be ordered on the form provided by the Committee, and it is then the duty of the chemist to supply such drugs with reasonable promptness.

I am, however, to draw your attention to Regulation 30 (2) of the Medical Benefit Regulations, under which practitioners may, in connection with medical benefit, supply drugs, etc., which are necessarily or ordinarily administered by a practitioner in person or required for the use before a supply can conveniently be obtained under the ordinary arrangements. It would appear that under the provisions of this Regulation vaccines and similar preparations may be supplied by the practitioner attending the insured person.

The cost of tuberculin and similar vaccines required in connection with the domiciliary treatment of tuberculosis, however, must be defrayed out of the ninepence per insured person remaining in the sanatorium benefit fund. The sixpence per insured person devoted to the services of the medical practitioner in respect of such treatment is not subject to deduction for this purpose.

As regards the actual measures to be taken for supplying any accessories required in connection with domiciliary treatment, the Commissioners would suggest that special prescription-forms should be used for this purpose, and they would be glad to be furnished with copies of the form that may be adopted. The Commissioners would, however, raise no objection to the use of forms Med. 13 and 13 (a) being used for the purpose, provided that the words "Sanatorium Benefit" or some other distinctive mark were made upon them, either by the practitioner or the Committee, in order to avoid the possibility of the cost of the items ordered thereon being charged, in error, to the Medical Benefit Fund.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

E. MACGOWAN.

Notes.

We learn that one dispensing institution in London recognised by Section 15 (4) of the Act is beginning to dispense under Section 15 (5). This is contrary to the provisions of Sub-section 5, iii, and should be stopped by the County of London Insurance Committee.

The following list of chemists elected to the various district committees in the Leicestershire area is additional to those given in our issue of February 22 (index folio 297): *Ashby-de-la-Zouch*, Mr. G. W. Eley; *Hinkley*, Messrs. K. Nixon and A. Hough; *Lutterworth*, Mr. T. H. Buswell.

A correspondent of "The Scotsman" tells how chemists were induced to go on the dispensing panels. It is chiefly notable for a veiled attack upon Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones, M.P.—viz.: "The position of these ordinary retailers of drugs under the Act is anything but creditable to the men who framed its provisions; and as for the member of Parliament who was supposed to be upholding the general interests of the trader while the Bill was going through a bewildered

House, his efforts were either contemptibly feeble or else, as is freely suggested by those who put their faith in his sincerity, he was in some way induced to roar as gently as a sucking-dove. This person is a Welsh M.P." The article proceeds to show that most of the Insurance dispensing done by chemists in Scotland is for people who were their customers before, and who got their dispensing done by chemists. The rates provided by the drug tariff are much lower than the rates that prevailed, so that chemists in Scotland are robbed of part of their livelihood.

Dispensing Arrangements.

Being reports of meetings and notes on other matters from various local centres.

Aberdeenshire.—At a meeting of the Insurance Committee last week it was reported that there are 33,000 insured persons in the county, and 28,000 have selected their doctors, the panel of whom is complete, all the doctors in the county being on it. All the chemists are on the dispensing panel. In regard to the doctors supplying drugs in rural areas, the Commissioners and the chemists have been consulted, with the result that the Medical Benefit Sub-Committee recommended that the demand of the doctors to supply drugs and appliances in accordance with Medical Benefit Regulation 30 should be agreed to, provided they undertook to dispense the medicine themselves, or have it dispensed under their own personal supervision. Dr. Rorie (Cults), one of the members, in the course of a speech on the matter, said that "the attitude of the doctors on the question of dispensing had been, to a great extent, misunderstood by the chemists. The idea of claiming a grant in respect of insured persons living more than a mile from the chemist was to secure, if possible, better terms for the chemist than he was obtaining under the tariff proposed by the Commissioners. In every part of the county the chemists were thoroughly dissatisfied with the tariff. With the 9s. grant the medical men would be able to make their own arrangements, and to secure that the friendly society members would get drugs as they used to get them, and not under the drug tariff arrangement, which was almost useless for practical purposes." The report was agreed to.

Barnet and St. Albans.—Mr. E. H. Fisher presided at a meeting of the St. Albans and Barnet Pharmacists' Association on March 6, when there was a good attendance. A resolution was passed protesting against the abolition of the duplicate prescription-form, owing to the extra amount of clerical work which the copying of prescriptions would entail.

Birmingham.—A meeting convened by the Midland Pharmaceutical Association was held at the Grand Hotel on Wednesday, March 12. About 120 were present. The main business was to discuss Insurance dispensing, and the general feeling seemed to be that it is operating in the main satisfactorily—so satisfactorily, indeed, that when at the end of the meeting those who wished to withdraw from the panel were asked to hold up their hands, not a single hand was held up in response. It was decided to continue the present system of duplicate prescription-forms, but the opinion was expressed that the colour of the forms should be changed to yellow or white, so that the writing would be clearer and therefore more legible. Councillor J. Poole mentioned that it is now possible to get part payment in advance on account of work done to the extent of 37. per prescription, the balance being paid later. A subscription was taken for the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee. A local Standing Committee was appointed. Mr. C. S. Richards presented a report on the athletic section of the Association.

Brighton and Hove.—Councillor Yates presided at a meeting of panel chemists held at the Commerce Club, Brighton, on March 5, when several Insurance dispensing subjects were discussed, and the Secretary (Mr. A. J. Franklin) was instructed to write to the Medical Committee deprecating the use of the words "Rept. Mist." in prescriptions, as well as the prescribing of patent medicines, and to urge strongly upon the committee the necessity of the continuance of the triplicate prescription. It was resolved not to sign any further agreement, except for three months, in order to better understand the future working of the Act. The Chairman pointed out the necessity of watching the interests of pharmacists on the panel, so that the drug fund should not be depleted through the many insured persons who come to the town as visitors; such persons should be sent at once to the Secretary of the Insurance Committee, who would then hand them over to one of the panel doctors. The following committee of panel chemists was formed: Councillor C. G. Yates (Chairman), Mr. C. S. Ashton (Hon. Secretary), Messrs. J. R. Gwatkin, G. B. Savage, J. Simpson, K. Padwick, E. Jones, Fowles, and F. W. Burgess.

Essex.—A meeting of the County of Essex Association of Pharmacists was held at 16 Bloomsbury Square, London,

W.C., on March 6, with the President (Mr. J. H. Matthews) in the chair. There was a good attendance. Mr. C. Goode was appointed Assistant Secretary, and the Executive Committee re-elected *en bloc*, with the exception of Mr. Graham replacing Mr. Wardale. The Chairman then outlined the history of the negotiations with the County Insurance Committee. The latter were especially desirous of having a flat rate, owing to the high cost of checking prescriptions on the tariff basis. The struggle would be renewed in April, and showed the necessity for continuing the Association. The annual subscription to the Association was fixed at 2s. 6d. It was also decided to ask members to subscribe 2s. 6d. each to the funds of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee on Insurance. The Secretary (Mr. E. A. Holloway) reported a particularly hard case under the mile-limit at Epping. He also remarked that the Insurance Committee would not hear of a late fee. One or two members of the Insurance Committee were very bitter against the Boots' poster, and the Committee had asked that it be withdrawn. Another painful thing was the question raised about "Insurance quality" (*C. & D.*, March 8, index folio 379). The following motion was then put to the meeting:

That this meeting of the County of Essex Association of Pharmacists begs to draw your attention to the fact that the Essex Insurance Committee contains seven medical men and only one pharmacist. The Association begs respectfully to suggest to the Commissioners the advisability of increasing the representation of the pharmacists on the Essex County Insurance Committee by the addition of at least three extra pharmacists, and suggests the names of Messrs. J. H. Matthews (Leytonstone), J. H. Heywood, J.P. (Southend), and Alderman Brooks (East Ham).

The resolution was adopted and ordered to be sent to the Essex Insurance Committee for comment before passing it on to the Insurance Commissioners. An honorarium of 5*l.* was next voted to the Assistant Secretary. Other questions gone into were the abolition of duplicate prescription-forms and "repeats." Correspondence read by a member and the Assistant Secretary showed how the Insurance Committee had changed its attitude regarding doctors ordering prescriptions to be repeated. The Assistant Secretary said it had been arranged that there is no need to copy repeat-prescriptions every time, but only at the end of the month. The Pharmaceutical Society were thanked for the use of the Council-room.

Exmouth.—Mr. A. H. Toono presided at a meeting of panel chemists on March 7, when Mr. P. F. Rowsell answered questions about Insurance dispensing.

Glamorgan.—Mr. A. Griffiths (Maesteg) presided at a meeting of the Mid-Glamorgan Pharmacists' Association held at Bridgend on February 26. Thirteen other members were present. Mr. Lucas (Bridgend) was appointed Vice-President and Mr. Llewellyn (Ogmore) Treasurer. Mr. Rhys D. Morgan (Maesteg) and Mr. Trevor Williams (Gilfach Goch) were elected members. A lengthy discussion took place upon Insurance Act dispensing, especially with regard to the position of chemists in colliery districts, where a poundage system of medical payment has been in vogue. It was resolved to take vigorous action, and to hold a general meeting of county pharmacists at Bridgend on March 13 in order to appoint delegates to approach the Insurance Committee.

Hereford.—At a meeting of the County Insurance Committee last week it was agreed that cod-liver oil and drugs for sanatorium patients should be obtained through panel chemists and charged to the Sanatorium Benefit fund.

Hitchin.—A meeting of the Hitchin Division Pharmacists' Association was held at Hitchin on March 5. Mr. W. Payne presided over an attendance of ten. Mr. J. M. Clouting (Hon. Secretary) gave particulars of the formation of a county association and regarding a meeting with the County Medical Committee, at which the question of a late fee was discussed. The tariff of prices for drugs and dispensing under the National Insurance Act was discussed, and the following resolutions were adopted:

That each pharmacist upon the panel be asked to contribute 2s. 6d. to meet the expenses of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee.

That members be asked to forward a subscription of 2s. 6d. to the County Association.

That tariff prices which do not bear the ratio of profit upon the front pages of the tariff be amended, so that each profit be ensured, and that a dispensing-fee be allowed upon all preparations that have to be labelled with directions.

The last resolution is to be sent to the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee.

Huddersfield.—The Insurance Committee is allowing chemists an extra fee of 2*d.* on each prescription dispensed after business hours.

Hull.—Mr. T. Smith presided at the meeting of the Hull Pharmacists' Association at the Grosvenor Hotel on March 11. He congratulated Mr. Brown (Hessle) on having been appointed President, and Mr. Morrow (Hornsea) Secre-

tary of the newly formed Holderness Association. It was decided to subscribe 2s. 6d. per panel shop to the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee. The Secretary intimated that as the result of an interview the pharmacists have agreed to continue the present arrangements for twelve months, subject to certain alterations. In the interview the doctors had promised to assist chemists in the matter of "Rept. Mist." prescriptions, and in improving some of the tariff prices. Mr. Staning advocated a dispensing-fee in every case, and Mr. Walton said 1*d.* should be the minimum for anything. Mr. Staning also referred to the necessity for chemists doing Insurance dispensing neatly and treating customers well. A doctor had complained. The President echoed the need. It was finally agreed that "the Association views with concern the action of the Insurance Commissioners in appointing a committee to inquire whether unqualified persons should be allowed to open shops and compound medicines under the Act, and hopes that the Pharmaceutical Society will take steps to oppose this being done." Copies of the resolution are to be sent to the local M.P.s and to Mr. Masterman and Mr. Lloyd George.

Lincolnshire.—At a meeting of the Holland Insurance Committee on March 10 it was reported that the Commissioners had refused the application (*C. & D.*, February 22, index folio 298) for the dispenser (a nurse) at the Boston Hospital to be placed on the chemists' panel, as it is contrary to the Act. Dr. South advised the Committee not to accept this answer as final, and the matter was postponed. The Commissioners have also declined to allow payments for certain special bottles, and this was referred to the Medical Committee.

Liverpool.—Many chemists have had a number of "yellow" order forms to fill for emergency dressings for medical men. One chemist had the three following from different doctors:

- (1) 3 × 1 yard rolls emp. adhesivum.
- (2) 2 doz. × 3-in. bandages.
1 lb. abs. wool, 1 lb. abs. lint, 1 lb. borie lint.
1 yard emp. adhesivum on holland.
- (3) A miscellaneous collection of dressings, bandages, lunar caustic sticks, gauzes, etc., apparently enough to last the doctor about twelve months.

One doctor made out a list including twenty-four items, ranging from hypodermic tablets of morphine to tuberculins. It included stocks of chloroform, ether, tr. iodi, ext. ergot liq., catgut, absolute alcohol, phenol, gauzes, lints, bandages; it included even fluid extract of cactus grandiflora. These were ordered in case they were needed. Such practices, says our correspondent, will soon cause the "floating sincipex" to disappear. Linseed meal can now be supplied to insured persons at the cost of the Insurance Committee. The price allowed is 4*d.* per lb. One chemist has priced 581 of his prescriptions. These work out at 5½*d.* per script.

London (Western).—The meeting of the Western Pharmacists' Association at the Restaurant Frascati, London, W.C., on March 12, related to Health Insurance matters, and was of a private character. The President (Mr. C. T. Allen) occupied the chair. The points dealt with related to late fees, adequate dispensing service, allowing institution dispensers to go on the panel, appliances, low charges on the tariff, and working hours. Mr. Edmund White announced that the Medical Benefit Sub-Committee of the London County Insurance Committee had passed a recommendation to pay 3*d.* per prescription on account. This would probably be sanctioned at the next meeting of the Insurance Committee.

Manchester.—Every panel chemist in the Manchester area received a letter on March 9 from the Insurance Committee of the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association, stating that the following arrangements are the result of negotiations between doctors, the Manchester Insurance Committee, and them:

1. *Repeat Mixtures.*—A doctor will give the date of the original prescription when ordering "Repeat mixture" and make sure the patient is going to the same chemist as before, otherwise he will write the prescription in full. The chemist must date the labels and need not write in the details on the prescription, but must attach the repeat to the original.

2. *Prescription Forms* will in future be on white paper and in duplicate instead of triplicate books. The prescription need not be copied, as it will be returned to the chemist by the Insurance Committee after it has been checked, when it must be filed and kept for reference.

3. *Form of Account.*—This necessitates arranging the prescriptions in order of dates, each day's prescriptions being bound together in book form by fastening them along the top edges. A slip of paper must be attached to each bundle giving the date and the money value.

4. *Proprietaries.*—Great care must be exercised in filling prescriptions for special articles (enumerated) and they should not be supplied, as they do not come within the terms of the contract. Prescriptions of such a nature should be referred back to the doctor.

Middlesbrough.—Mr. C. W. Powell, chemist, having complained about doctors sending insured persons to particular chemists, and another chemist about "Rept. Mist." prescriptions, both matters have been referred to the Medical Benefit Sub-Committee of the Insurance Committee.

Middlesex.—The Executive Committee of the County Association of Pharmacists met at 17 Bloomsbury Square on Wednesday, March 12. A scheme was adopted whereby every portion of the county shall be represented by the local Associations, which are four in number. Mr. John Humphrey was selected to be the pharmaceutical representative on the County Insurance Committee in place of Mr. Palmer, of Twickenham, who is resigning. A sub-committee was formed, consisting of Messrs. Bailey, Humphrey, Skinner, and Whigham, to meet a small committee representing the statutory Medical Committee for the county, and to come to some arrangement in regard to duplicate prescriptions, late dispensing-fee, stock formulæ, and other subjects.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.—The Chemists' Panel Society met in the Hôtel Métropole on March 4, Mr. T. M. Clague in the chair. There was an excellent attendance. The agenda was somewhat heavy, and several items of vital importance were discussed. Somewhat varied opinions existed as to the pharmacopœia recently drawn up by the local Doctors' Committee. Mr. Clague's scheme of pricing the formulæ was accepted. It was suggested by Mr. Crawhall that as the business is somewhat heavy the Society should meet more frequently. The President and Secretary were deputed to interview the Clerk to the local Insurance Committee and place before him several protests.

Nottingham.—A sub-committee of the Insurance Committee has reported that medicines are being dispensed at drug-stores, contrary to the provisions of the Act, by persons who are not qualified and who are not authorised by the Committee to supply medicines. As medicines so dispensed can only be paid for if they are charged through the accounts of qualified chemists on the panel, a warning has been issued to the latter, among the consequences of perversion being reporting to the Commissioners.

Oldham.—Insurance dispensing matters were the prominent subjects of discussion at an excellent meeting of the Oldham Chemists' Association on March 4, Mr. E. H. Holden presiding. Objection was taken to "Rep. mist.," and it was also suggested that white paper would be much more suitable than green for the prescription-forms. The next meeting will be devoted to tariff revision.

Perthshire.—A deputation from the Perthshire Pharmacists' Association, consisting of Messrs. Donald, Forbes, and Harley (Perth), Scott (Callander), and Petrie (Blairstown), had a conference with the Chairman and Clerk of the County Insurance Committee on March 6. Mr. Donald having expressed the thanks of chemists to the Chairman, Mr. Scott spoke on the following points: (1) Profit on drugs should be 50 per cent. on wholesale list prices; (2) prices should be calculated to the nearest 1d., not ½d.; (3) a fee of 6d. should be allowed for dispensing from 10 P.M. to 8 A.M.; (4) accounts should be paid in full, and 90 per cent. of the amount quarterly; (5) in rural-area places where there is a chemist as well as a doctor the chemist should get the dispensing to do. Mr. Petrie also dealt with the fifth point, contending that patients are supplied quicker by chemists, and that if doctors undertake the dispensing, chemists in Alyth, Blairstown, and Coupar Angus would be deprived of much of their present livelihood. Mr. Forbes submitted figures showing that the Insurance rate for prescriptions which are ordinarily 1s. on the average is only 6d. Mr. Harley maintained that the unremunerative prices for drugs and the inadequate dispensing-fees are detrimental to the best traditions of pharmacy, and that such sweating is demoralising to the chemist, and not in the best interests of the insured persons; in fact, was a gamble with the health of the people. The feeling of hostility in the country is very marked, and he concluded by saying that raising of under-priced drugs and abolition of all flat prices for waters, infusions, spirits, tinctures, etc., are absolutely necessary.

Somerset.—Mr. Clutterbuck presided at a meeting of the Somerset Pharmacists' Association held at Bridgwater on February 26, when it was decided to sign Insurance dispensing contracts for one year from January 15, also to subscribe 2l. 2s. to the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee.

Stoke-on-Trent.—On March 8 the Insurance Committee considered a proposal to get the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee to check the first month's prescriptions, and Mr. Edmund Jones (Chairman of the Medical Benefit Sub-Committee) explained why. The matter was discussed, objection being expressed, Dr. Day saying there was no necessity to send these accounts to London—it was unnecessarily invading the "floating sixpence," but Dr. Russell thought the accounts should be checked by men with a proper knowledge

of pharmacy. A doctor having explained that pills supplied to an insured person by a panel chemist were not in accordance with prescription, the Clerk reported to the Sub-Committee that he had had the pills analysed, and the Sub-Committee recommended that proceedings be taken against the chemist under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. The minutes were adopted.

Watford.—Mr. C. E. King presided at a meeting of the Pharmacists' Association in the Lime Tree Hotel, Watford, on March 5, fourteen other members being present. It was agreed that each member should contribute 2s. 6d. to the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee, and 2l. 12s. 6d. was collected. It was agreed that the prices of certain articles in the tariff should be advanced, and the Hon. Secretary was instructed to put this before the next meeting of the Insurance Committee. It was also agreed that any member desiring further copies of the "local formulæ" should pay 6d. for each copy. The Chairman made a few sympathetic remarks concerning the untimely end of Mr. W. G. Clark.

Wiltshire.—Mr. J. H. Aplin presided at a meeting of the Wiltshire County Pharmacists' Association at Trowbridge on March 12, when it was reported that the Medical Benefit Sub-Committee of the Insurance Committee had resolved that the doctors' and chemists' Association be invited to send to the Insurance Committee their views as to the definition of "rural area." A meeting of chemists and doctors will be held soon. A subscription of three guineas has been sent to the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee on Insurance, and each member present subscribed 2s. 6d., and the twenty-one absentees are to be asked to do the same. The Cardiff Association's action *re* unprofitable "patents" was endorsed.

Pricing Problems.

Insurance prescriptions received by "C. & D." subscribers and submitted to us for pricing, because of exceptional or new points of interpretation. The principles upon which prescriptions are charged for are fully explained in the pricing-card supplied by the Book Department, "C. & D., price 6d., by post 7d.

HYD. C. CRET. TABLETS.—*Seaside* (7/47) asks the charge for "Tab. hyd. c. creta, 1 gross." [We presume the tariff 3-gr. tablet was supplied, for which the charge is 4d. per dozen without a dispensing-fee. Other strengths would be charged cost *plus* a third and dispensing-fee, 1s. 2d.]

ICHTHYOL.—*J. W.* (3/61) asks if ichthyol must be charged by weight or measure. [This is listed at 1s. 6d. per oz. As it is always dispensed by weight, charge by weight. The substance physically happens to be neither liquid nor solid.]

IODEX.—*A. P. W.* (6/32) charges "Iodex 3j." as follows: Cost price 9d. *plus* one-third, 3d., and dispensing-fee 3d.; total, 1s. 3d. [The ounce rate for iodex is correctly reckoned out at 1s., but the apothecaries' ounce at this rate works out at 1s. 1d. Again, the amount is greater than 1 oz., so the dispensing-fee is 4d., making the total 1s. 5d.]

MIST. SPT. VINT GALL.—*J. H.* (6/29).—See *C. & D.*, February 15, index folio 260.

OINTMENT ON LINT.—*D. & S.* (5/15).—The pricing of ung. hydrarg. co. spread on lint was dealt with in reply to "W. I. P." (232/35), *C. & D.*, February 15, index folio 260.

PULVERETTES.—The charge for 100 pulverette Bland co., which cost 11d., is asked by *Pulverette* (4/5). He adds that the Secretary of his Pharmaceutical Association says add one-third but do not charge a dispensing-fee. This would be 1s. 4d. "Pulverette" points out that the *C. & D.* invariably advises a dispensing-fee, making the total charge 2s. 3d. [The local secretary is wrong. The Pharmaceutical Standing Committee agrees with us in charging a dispensing-fee. Pulverettes are best classed as pills, but even if they are regarded as globular capsules this makes no difference in the price.]

SODII PHOSPH. EXSIC.—*C. L.* (3/72) asks if a dispensing-fee is chargeable on an order for "sodæ phosph. sicc. (dried)"? [No.]

"UP OR DOWN."—*C. L.* (3/72) asks: "Will 1½d. as 1d. and 1½d. as 2d. be accepted by Insurance Committees?" [We cannot tell what various committees will do. So far as there is by no means uniformity of procedure, we advise the adoption of some such method, and proper representation to the Committee to whom the account is rendered.]

VACCINES.—*C. L.* (3/72) asks if there is a dispensing-fee on vaccines. [Yes; these are liquid preparations, but if they are for tuberculosis they do not come under Medical Benefit, and Insurance Committees have no authority to pay for them.]

A number of replies are unavoidably held over.

WESTMINSTER WISDOM.

The Week in Parliament.

THE THIRD SESSION

of the second Parliament of King George V. opened on Monday, March 10, with full State ceremonial, the King and Queen being present in the House of Lords.

DUGONG OIL FOR THE SUFFRAGETTES.

The interesting suggestion is being made to the Home Secretary by Mr. Joseph King, M.P., that dugong oil should be used upon the suffragettes who refuse to take food, instead of forcible feeding. The hon. member is calling the attention of Mr. McKenna to recent pathological experiments made on patients incapable of taking food, which has tended to establish the fact that this oil, if persistently rubbed into the pores of the skin daily, will keep a patient alive for several weeks.

[Is this another attempt to introduce dugong oil into this country? It has been tried occasionally during the past sixty years.—EDITOR, *C. & D.*]

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

The Merchandise Marks (No. 2) Bill, which is to be re-introduced by Mr. Stavely-Hill, M.P., on behalf of Mr. Basil Peto, M.P., the first-named member having secured tenth place in the ballot for private members' Bills, provides for the abolition of the well-known formula, "Made in Germany," by the substitution therefor, in the case of goods which are not of British manufacture, of the words "Not British," or *per contra* "British Empire made" if they are manufactured in any part of the British Empire outside the British Islands. The marks are to be conspicuous, and the expression "covering" includes any stopper, cask, bottle, vessel, box, cover, capsule, case, frame, or wrapper.

THE CELLULOID INQUIRY.

Sir Jesse Boot gave evidence on Thursday, March 7, before the Earl of Plymouth's Departmental Committee, which is considering the whole question of the use, storage, and manufacture of celluloid articles. Sir Jesse gave evidence from the point of view of the retail trading chemist, who handles articles manufactured from celluloid material.

No date has yet been formally fixed for the hearing of the petitions of the London Chamber of Commerce, the Incorporated Associations of Kinematograph Manufacturers and Film Renters, the Wharfingers' Association, the British Xylonite Co., Ltd., and others against the Bill which is being promoted in Parliament by the Corporation of the City of London in regard to the regulation of premises in which celluloid articles are stored or manufactured, or for the hearing of the petitions of the Great Eastern Railway Co., the Port of London Authority, and the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Companies against the same Bill.

THE PATENT-MEDICINE INQUIRY.

Our Parliamentary representative learns that there is very little chance of the Select Committee on Patent Medicines being able to resume its deliberations until the House of Commons reassembles after Easter. This, the first adjournment of the new Session will be of the briefest possible character, and will probably not include Easter Monday. It is unlikely that there will be any changes in the *personnel* of the Committee when it is renominated by the Government. One of the most important witnesses to be called when the Committee resumes its sittings will be a representative of the Government Laboratory, Clement's Inn. An effort will be made to ascertain to what extent analyses made by public officials can be depended upon, and in this connection the evidence will have an important bearing upon that already tendered to the Committee by Mr. J. C. Umney. It is anticipated that the inquiry will outlast the present Session—which will be a short one—and that possibly the final recommendations of the Committee may not see the light before 1914. A number of witnesses have yet to be called, and a rather longer adjournment than usual at Whitsuntide may render it impossible to bring the investigations of the Committee to a close before August next, when Parliament will again be prorogued.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

AMONG THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ADDRESS of which notice was given on Monday was one by Sir J. D. Rees regretting that the Speech contained no promise of speedy and drastic amendment of the Insurance Act in respect of its compulsory character, the delegation of excessive powers to the Commissioners, the failure to supply adequate medical attendance at the option of the insured person, and the absence of provisions for contracting out.

TUBERCULIN INOCULATION.—Mr. Masterman, replying to Mr. Chancellor on Wednesday, said no regulations have been published in regard to the treatment of tuberculosis patients, but it is provided in Section 14 (2, E) of the Act that no rule made by an Insurance Committee with regard to the administration of sanatorium benefit shall prescribe any penalty, nor shall any insured person be subject to any penalty, whether by suspension of benefit or otherwise, on account of the refusal by any such person to submit to inoculation of any kind.

DOCTORS AND THE SALE OF MEDICINES.—Mr. Masterman has also informed Mr. Needham that except in the special circumstances, where a doctor is allowed to dispense under the Act in accordance with Paragraph 30 of the Medical Benefit Regulations, no payment could be made to him out of the Insurance funds for any drugs supplied by him to insured persons who are entitled to obtain them free from any chemist on the panel. He does not think it would be proper for such an arrangement to be made as that described in the question—viz., the sale by a doctor to an insured person of medicine in addition to giving a prescription and advice.

REPEAT MEDICINE.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer having been asked to explain why a member of an approved institution cannot have a second supply of medicine without a further interview with the doctor and the granting of a second prescription, Mr. Masterman has replied that the requirement has not been imposed by the Commissioners, but by the rules of the institution to which the patient belongs. The institutions reasonably consider that it is in the best interests of the patient that the decision as to repeating a medicine should rest with the medical attendant of the patient rather than with the patient himself, and that a prescription should not be repeated without a written statement to that effect by the medical attendant.

REVIEWS.

The Plant Alkaloids. By T. A. HENRY, D.Sc. (Lond.). F.C.S. Pp. 446. 18s. (London: J. & A. Churchill.)

ENGLISH literature is far from being rich in works on the plant alkaloids, and, with the exception of dictionary articles and the monograph on the subject in Allen's "Commercial Inorganic Analysis," it would be difficult to find any book which deals thoroughly with the chemistry of the subject in other aspects than the analytical. There are two reasons for this. First, that the study of the alkaloids has been the peculiar province of physicians and pharmacists since their discovery nearly one hundred years ago, and, secondly, it is only within the last three decades that knowledge in regard to the constitution of alkaloids has become definite, and most of what we do know is of comparatively recent ascertainment. Yet there is no class of vegetable products which has been more consistently attacked by research chemists than alkaloids, as for example when the late Sir William Perkin discovered the first aniline dye when he was endeavouring to find a way to make quinine artificially. Nature has proved to be a cheaper manufacturer of alkaloids than scientific synthesis, but synthetical processes for the making of several alkaloids have been perfected, and these and other achievements have taught chemists that complete knowledge of the constitution of alkaloids is the only royal road to their artificial production. This is the road which pure chemists are traversing at present, but comparatively few pharmacists, and still fewer physicians, accompany them, because their interests lie rather in the isolation and medicinal properties of

alkaloids. We are glad, therefore, to welcome a book on modern lines by a pharmacist who is also a pure chemist—namely, this work by Dr. Henry, the Superintendent of the Laboratories, Scientific and Technical Department of the Imperial Institute. Dr. Henry was a Bell scholar in 1893, and after a distinguished career in the School of Pharmacy entered the Research Laboratory as a Redwood scholar, and migrated with Professor Dunstan, its Director, to the Imperial Institute, where his work has been largely directed to the study of alkaloids. He is, therefore, well qualified to approach the subject from the purely scientific point of view without forgetting the interests of medicine and pharmacy, and his book succeeds admirably in retaining these interests while giving full expositions of modern work which may be the basis of future syntheses. The subject is considered in groups, each of which forms a chapter, as follows:

<i>Nature of Nucleus.</i>	<i>Examples.</i>
Group 1. Pyrrole.	Hygrine, Stachydrine.
Group 2. Pyridine.	Conine.
Group 3. Diheterocyclic, with a common nitrogen atom.	Atropine, Sparteine.
Group 4. Quinoline.	Strychnine
Group 5. <i>iso</i> Quinoline.	Papaverine.
Group 6. Glyoxaline.	Pilocarpine.
Group 7. Purine.	Caffeine.
Group 8. Cyclic or acyclic derivatives of aliphatic amines.	Choline, Arginine.
Group 9. Alkaloids of unknown constitution.	

"Recent Work on Alkaloids" is dealt with in an appendix, which is followed by a good index. The thoroughness of the treatment is well illustrated by the third group, where alkaloids of the solanaceæ get first place and are dealt with in forty-two pages. The sources of the alkaloids are the subject of a table in which the name of the plant, the part, the alkaloids yielded, with percentages and principal references, are given, which is followed by particulars of the preparation and estimation of the alkaloids and the assay of galenical preparations. Then follow particulars of each member of the group—namely, atropine, apoa tropine, belladonnine, and hyoscyamine, followed by a monograph on the constitution of atropine and hyoscyamine, which takes us right through the results of work that enabled atropine to be synthesised. Next follow particulars of what may be called the minor alkaloids in the group. The last group—"Alkaloids of Unknown Constitution"—may also be instanced because the principal part of it is concerned with the aconite alkaloids, and there is an element of humour in the situation, for more money and temper have been spent during recent years in attacking aconitine than perhaps any other alkaloid, yet chemists in England and Germany have got no further than proving that it is acetyl benzoyl aconine with the considerable complex $C_{21}H_{27}O_5N$ still to be attacked. We cannot go further into the subject at present, but these remarks suffice to show chemists, pharmacists, and physicians that in Dr. Henry's book they have a thorough exposition of present-day knowledge regarding the source, characters, constitution, and properties of the plant alkaloids.

NEW BOOKS.

Any of these books printed in the United Kingdom can be supplied, at the published price, to "C. & D." subscribers on application (with remittance) to the Publisher, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C. These notes do not exclude subsequent reviews.

Bocquillon-Limousin, H. *Formulaire des Médicaments Nouveaux pour 1913*. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ×4. Pp. 360+appendices. 3f. (Baillière, 19 Rue Hautefeuille, Paris.) [The new edition for 1913 of a well-known French reference-book of new remedies. The number of these mentioned is more than five hundred, and each is dealt with under a definite plan—synonyms, description of the substance, its composition, physiological action, therapeutic properties, method of

using it, and the dose. It includes new medicaments, such as adaline, embarine, jalon, myrmalide, melubrine, ristine, colloidal selenium, systogene, urogenine, and zebromal.]

Weltadressbuch der Chemischen Industrie, 1913. [Directory of the Chemical Industries throughout the World.] 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×6 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pp. xlviii+1053. (Union Deutsche Verlagsgesellschaft, 51 Blücherstrasse, Berlin, S. 61.) [A directory of chemical manufacturers and dealers in chemicals. It is divided into three parts. Part I. gives under the name of the chemical or drug the names of the chief makers or dealers throughout the world. The range extends from residuary products (Abfallprodukte) to Zymin. Part II. is a list of raw materials used in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries and the addresses of the principal suppliers. This begins with residues (Abfälle) and ends with Zedoary root (Zitwerwurzel), and is a more complete list of these products than is to be found elsewhere. Parts I. and II. might very well have been combined, under the present arrangement—i.e., cinnamon is in Part II., while cinnamon oil is in Part I. Part III. is the section devoted to machinery and apparatus, with the addresses of the principal suppliers. This is divided into two parts, the second portion dealing with accessories for chemical industry—the sub-division again is unnecessary. There is at the commencement a good index in several languages to the whole book, which it would be best to consult when requiring information. The selection of firms is good, so far as we have been able to check it, and the volume will be a useful one to all who purchase supplies on a large scale.]

COMING EVENTS.

This section of the "C. & D." is reserved for advance notices of meetings or other events. These should be sent to the Editor by Wednesday of the week before the meetings, etc., occur.

Friday, March 14.

Blackpool and Fylde Pharmacists' Association, Palatine Hotel, Blackpool, at 8.45 P.M. Special meeting to consider the revision of the drug-tariff.

Tuesday, March 18.

Glasgow and West of Scotland Chemists' Association and Pharmacy Athletic Club, Grand Hotel, Charing Cross, Glasgow, at 7.30 P.M. Whist-drive and dance. Tickets (gentleman's 5s. 6d., lady's 4s. 6d.) from Mr. W. J. Moffat, Hon. Secretary, 741 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow.

Wednesday, March 19.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, North British Branch, 36 York Place, Edinburgh, at 8.30 P.M. Mr. James Grier, M.Sc., on "The Relation of Chemical Structure to Physiological Action. Part I. The Aliphatic Compounds"; Mr. W. B. Cowie on "An Improved Assay Process for Ipecacuanha."

Nottingham Pharmaceutical Association. General meeting. *Southampton Pharmacists' Association*, at 3 P.M. Annual meeting. At 8.30 P.M., annual dinner.

CARDIFF PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.—A whist-drive will be held on March 26 at the Angel Hotel. Tickets (2s. each) from Mr. Fred. Lea, Hon. Secretary, 238A Cowbridge Road, Cardiff.

EDINBURGH CHEMISTS' TRADE ASSOCIATION.—To celebrate the majority of the Association a dinner has been arranged at the Carlton Hotel for April 2. Tickets (5s. each) from Mr. J. Blenkiron, Hon. Secretary, 115 Princes Street.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON PHARMACEUTISTS' ASSOCIATION.—The first annual dinner will be held at the Restaurant Frascati, London, W., on April 9. Tickets (6s. 6d. each) can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. E. Mason, 89 Acre Lane, Brixton.

CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.—The annual dinner will be held in the King's Hall, Holborn Restaurant, London, W.C., on April 3. Tickets (5s. 6d. each) from Mr. A. R. Arrowsmith, Hon. Secretary of the Dinner Committee, 4 Stratford Place, Oxford Street, W.

LONDON CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.—A complimentary dinner will be held in the Venetian Chamber, Holborn Restaurant, London, W.C., on April 10, to commemorate the passing of the National Insurance Act. The guests of the evening will be Mr. C. B. Allen (President of the Pharmaceutical Society), Mr. W. S. Glvn-Jones, M.P. (Parliamentary Secretary), Mr. W. J. U. Woolcock (Organising Secretary), Mr. P. F. Rowsell (Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee), and Mr. E. T. Neathercoat (Chairman of the Local Organisation Committee). Mr. T. H. W. Idris, J.P., will preside, and Mr. J. A. Dawes, M.P. (Chairman of the London Insurance Committee), will be present. Tickets (6s. 6d. each) may be had from Mr. J. Wellesley Douglas, Hon. Secretary, 19 Kennington Terrace, London, S.E.

FESTIVITIES.

Whist.

ON Wednesday evening, March 5, the most successful whist-drive in the history of the Liverpool Chemists' Association was held at the Gainsboro' Café, Dale Street, at 8 p.m. Two hundred and eighteen players sat down at the tables, and things went along smoothly under the control of the M.C. (Mr. W. F. Laycock) and two stewards (Mr. T. L. Hirst and Mr. Hamnett). At 9.15 p.m. the party in couples ascended the grand staircase into the Banqueting Hall, where an excellent repast was served. The second half of the drive terminated at 10.45 p.m.; the proceedings had meanwhile been enlivened from time to time by the distribution of "surprise prizes" at frequent intervals. The arrangements had this year been handed over to the younger members of the Association, and they acquitted themselves with honour. At the end of the playing Mrs. Humphreys Jones (wife of the President) presented the prizes in a gracious manner. The prizewinners were: *Gentlemen*—(1) Mr. W. H. Saunders, (2) Mr. H. Gainford, (3) Mr. Hamnett. *Ladies*—(1) Miss Myers, (2) Miss G. Dutton, (3) Miss E. Spring. New feature prizes: Best half-time scores, Mr. S. Rawlinson and Miss Earle. Sealed number prize.—Two ladies tied for this, and they both "cut" cards for the prize.

Dinners.

THE President (Mr. W. G. Poll) and eight other members were present at the meeting of the Great Yarmouth Pharmacists' Association on March 4. The final arrangements for the annual dinner were settled, and this took place on Thursday, March 6, at Hill's Restaurant, after which the company adjourned to the Association's Rooms, where an excellent gramophone, cards, etc., supplied entertainment for the remainder of the evening.

THE seventh annual dinner of the Worcester City and County Pharmacists' Association was held at the Hop Market Hotel on Wednesday, March 5, Alderman Steward, J.P. (President), in the chair. He was supported by the City Member (Mr. Edward Goulding, M.P.), the High Sheriff, Mr. F. J. Gibson (Wolverhampton), Dr. Neville Crowe (representing the medical profession), Mr. L. Stroud (Cheltenham), and other guests, and most of the members of the Association. Besides the toasts, a very pleasant musical programme was given.

THE British Drug Houses Cricket and Swimming Clubs held their fifth annual dinner at the London Tavern on March 8, about 100 being present. Mr. C. A. Hill presided, supported by Messrs. R. K. Harvey, R. M. Harvey, Alan Hicks, W. L. Howie, and Alan Francis. The dinner was good, the speaking was witty, and numerous substantial prizes were presented for batting and bowling and for swimming prowess; while the musical programme arranged by Mr. Munyard was much appreciated.

THE annual supper of the Edinburgh Chemists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association took place in Ferguson & Forrester's on March 7. Mr. Henry Stout presided, and Messrs. G. H. Etchells and J. Douglas Watson acted as croupiers. After supper and the loyal toast, Mr. E. J. Brown proposed the toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society," which Dr. George Coull acknowledged. Other toasts were "The Medical Profession," "The Edinburgh Chemists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association," and "Kindred Associations." An excellent musical entertainment was given, and the proceedings closed with "Auld Lang Syne."

THE twenty-third annual dinner of the staff of Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., and associated companies was held at the Victoria Hall, Hôtel Cecil, London, W.C., on March 8. Mr. Frank L. Wright presiding over a company of nearly three hundred. After dinner, the principal toast, that of "The Prosperity of the Company and Allied Companies," was given by the President, who expressed the regret of the Chairman of the Company (Colonel M. Studholme Brownrigg) that influenza kept him away. Mr. Wright said that now the company had eight factories, against two five years ago. The acquiring of the business of C. Price & Co., founded 200 years ago, was the most important event of the year. Mr. Peter S. Spokes submitted in graceful terms the toast of "The Manufacturing Staff," to which the general manager (Mr. T. Dalziel) replied, pointing out that there are on the staff at present fourteen employés with over fifty years' service and fifty-three who have been with the company over forty years. The toast of "The Commercial Staff" was given by Mr. R. A. Robinson, D.L., who referred to the opportunity of everyone in the company to improve himself. Mr. C. Radburn responded. The toast of "Our Colleagues Overseas," given by Mr. E. Tappley, was

accorded musical honours. Mr. W. M. Calderwood, who replied, had only a few days before returned from three years' pioneer work at Shanghai. The "Ballad-mongers" supplied the pleasing musical entertainment. A feature of the dinner was the artistic table-lighting by the Cricklewood branch of the company.

WINTER SESSION.

Reporters, and Secretaries of Associations whose meetings are not open to reporters, are requested to send their reports to the Editor not later than the Wednesday following the meeting.

Aberdeen.—Mr. D. Anderson presided at the annual meeting of the Aberdeen Pharmacists' Association held on Wednesday, March 5. The annual report showed a membership of fifty-seven, and an average attendance at meetings of thirty-eight. The Treasurer's report showed the income to be quite sufficient to meet an abnormal expenditure, and the balance is good. The following officers were elected: *President*, Mr. David Anderson; *Vice-President*, Mr. John R. Reith; *Treasurer*, Mr. Chas. Simpson; *Secretary*, Mr. W. T. Hay, 476 Union Street; and *Auditor*, Mr. Robert Leslie.

Blackpool.—Mr. Laurie presided at a meeting of the Blackpool and Fylde Pharmacists' Association on March 7. It was decided to recommend all members of the Association on the Insurance dispensing panel to subscribe 2s. 6d. towards the expenses of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee, and certain members were empowered to collect the subscriptions. The Assistant Hon. Secretary was instructed to write to several makers of proprietary articles, pointing out the need for price protection as suggested by the Cardiff Association. Mr. Ludlam (Fleetwood) was elected a member. Mr. D. J. Bailey (President of the Association) was attending a meeting of the Insurance Committee, but came in before this meeting closed, and gave the members much useful information.

Chemical Society.—The papers at the ordinary meeting on March 6, with the President (Professor P. F. Frankland, F.R.S.) in the chair, contained little of interest to pharmacists. Professor A. G. Green and Mr. F. M. Rowe, in a paper on *Quinonoid Salts of Nitranilines*, stated that the deep-red coloration or precipitate formed when sodium ethylate is added to nitranilines in hot benzene solution for a means of differentiating *ortho*- and *para*-nitranilines from *meta*-nitraniline, which gives no coloration. Drs. A. D. Mitchell and C. Smith tackled the vexed question of the *Existence of Racemic Compounds in the Liquid State*, using Ramsay and Jeans' surface-tension method. The results were unfavourable to the existence of racemisation in the liquid state. Mr. R. W. Merriman read the first of a series of researches on *Azeotropic Mixtures*. The constant boiling-point series related to ethyl alcohol and water. This showed, curiously enough, that as the boiling-points of the constituents of mixture of alcohol and water came closer together as the pressure diminished, a better separation was effected. At 70 mm. pressure anhydrous alcohol distilled over. The sp. gr. of pure dry alcohol was given as 0.80628^{0°}₄₀

and quicklime from marble was mentioned as the quickest dehydrating agent. It was pointed out that the vapour-pressure curves of ethyl acetate and ethyl alcohol cross, so that at 948 mm. and 84° the mixture distilled unchanged. The last communication, by Mr. H. L. Crowther and Dr. H. McCombie, related to the chlorination of 6-iodo-thymol. The iodine was first replaced, and further chlorination results in a tetrachlor derivative of *m*-cresol being produced.

Chemists' and Druggists' Society.—The committee of the Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland met in the rooms, 11 Waring Street, Belfast, on March 12. Mr. Samuel Suffern (President) in the chair. There also were present Messrs. S. Gibson, J.P., Wm. Haslett, E. J. Roberts, F. Lindsay, R. Milligan, W. H. R. Orr, S. Nevin, D. Manson, John Frackelton, Wm. Martin, and W. J. Rankin. Letters of resignation were read from Mr. Thos. Mitchell (Belfast) and Mr. W. J. May (Whitehead), who have qualified as pharmaceutical chemists. The following sub-committees were appointed: *Law and Parliamentary*—Messrs. S. Gibson, J.P., J. Walsh, W. Haslett, J. D. Carse, and D. Manson; *Rooms*—Messrs. J. Moffett, S. Nevin, D. O. Perry, W. J. Busby, and J. Frackelton; *Social*—Messrs. J. Macauley, W. H. R. Orr, W. J. Busby, J. Frackelton, and W. E. Wilson; *Finance*—Messrs. Wm. Jameson, M.C.P.S.I., S. Gibson, J.P., W. J. Rankin, J. Walsh, and S. McDowell. Mr. Gibson read correspondence with the Secretary to the Committee of Inquiry appointed to hear evidence on the extension of medical benefits to Ireland under the National Insurance Act, which showed that the evidence to be given by the Society on the subject had best

be tendered at a later stage. A discussion followed, and it was decided to oppose any extension of medical benefits to Ireland, as it would, to a large extent, curtail the trade. The committee resolved to canvass all non-members, with a view to their joining the Society, as it existed to advance the interests of the trade generally.

Chesterfield.—A meeting of the Chesterfield and District Pharmacists' Association was held on the evening of March 11, Mr. George Wright presiding. It was agreed to subscribe to the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee out of the funds the equivalent of 2s. 6d. per member's shop. The pricing of Insurance prescriptions was discussed, and this being the last meeting of the session, the President (Mr. Wright) and Hon. Secretary (Mr. Toplis) were cordially thanked.

Exeter.—Mr. T. C. Milton presided at a meeting of the Exeter Association of Pharmacists held in his residence on March 6. Six others were present. It was agreed to ask members to contribute 2s. 6d. per panel shop to the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee on Insurance. Consequent on a letter from the Cardiff Pharmacists' Association, it was resolved "to discourage in every possible way the sale of proprietary articles on which there is not at least a P.A.T.A. profit."

Middlesbrough.—The Chemists' Association had a meeting in the Grand Hotel, Middlesbrough, on March 6, Mr. W. Caris presiding, when Mr. F. P. Sargeant attended as a member of the Pharmaceutical Council, and gave an address on its organisation scheme, also discussing the work of the Council, as well as the influence of the Insurance Act upon pharmacy. A spirited discussion then took place among the members on Insurance topics, and Mr. Sargeant helped to clear up many moot points. He was cordially thanked on the motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Lee, and supported by Mr. W. Finlayson (Stockton).

Paisley.—At the meeting of the Paisley Pharmaceutical Association on March 11 Mr. J. P. Gilmour discoursed on "Some Confessions, without a Moral, of a Pharmaceutical Diplomatist."

Royal Institution.—At the meeting on March 7 Mr. C. T. R. Wilson, F.R.S., discoursed on *Photography of the Paths of Particles Ejected from Atoms*. The lecture consisted of a description of the author's method of recording the passage of α - and β -particles thrown off by radium. The radium is placed in a glass vessel filled with moist air, in which sudden expansion can be brought about by rapidly lowering the bottom of the vessel. The inside of the glass is coated with gelatin to prevent condensation on the glass, but the water-vapour condenses on the ions, their path being marked by a line of cloud which forms. It is this trail which is photographed by the light of an instantaneous discharge from a Leyden jar. In another method the water is replaced by mercury-vapour. The photographs, which were shown by means of the optical lantern, showed the paths of the particles in the form of streaks, the end of each trail exhibiting a curious bend. Lord Rayleigh was in the chair, and among the exhibits in the library was the radium collector devised by Mr. F. H. Glew.

Smethwick.—At a meeting of pharmacists held at the Park Hotel on February 20 it was decided to form a Smethwick Pharmaceutical Association, and the following officers were elected: *President*, Mr. H. M. Tranmer; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. E. B. Whitehouse; and *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. H. Oakley.

Swansea.—The annual meeting of the Swansea Chemists' Association was held on March 6. Mr. Rees (President) was in the chair, and reviewed the work of the past year, especially in reference to the National Insurance Act. A discussion ensued, and then the election of officers took place, with the following result: *President*, Mr. H. S. Arnold (Cwmavon); *Vice-President*, Mr. T. Dryden; *Secretaries*, Mr. W. Tyrynys Thomas (Gorscino) and Mr. E. T. Rich; *Treasurer*, Mr. H. L. Havard (Swansea). The retiring officers were thanked for their services.

Women Pharmacists.—A meeting of the Association of Women Pharmacists was held on March 4 at Gordon Hall, Gordon Square, London, W.C., when a paper was read by Miss A. Borrowman, Ph.C., on *Silk, Real and Artificial*. This described the manufacture of artificial silk, which is now used for every purpose for which the natural article is employed. By the naked eye it can scarcely be distinguished from silkworm-produced silk, but under the microscope the filaments which compose the threads are found to differ, and when burnt the natural silk gives the smell of burnt hair characteristic of nitrogenous compounds. Miss Buchanan read "Some Notes on an Old Herbal" she had come across. The book was not dated, and was ostensibly written for the guidance of charitable women. Votes of thanks were passed to Miss Borrowman and Miss Buchanan.

TRADE REPORT.

The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers receive the goods into stock, after which much expense may be incurred in garbling and the like. Qualities of chemicals, drugs, oils, and many other commodities vary greatly, and higher prices than those here quoted are charged for selected qualities of natural products even in bulk quantities. Retail buyers cannot, therefore, for these and other reasons, expect to purchase at the prices quoted here.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., March 13.

BUSINESS does not show any improvement in chemicals and drugs, the principal contributory factors being dear money and the political outlook on the Continent, the latter especially inducing a lack of confidence. A fair number of price-changes are recorded, including a long-overdue decline in quicksilver from first-hands, which, however, has not restored confidence to the market. Cocaine, codeine salts, and acetyl-salicylic acid are also officially lower. Cod-liver oil has sensationally advanced, the quotations being very wide. Other changes include a further advance in citric acid, also in pulv. seidlitz, soda tart., Canada balsam, and sweet almond oil. English castor oil, copaiba, copper sulphate, and potash prussiate are firmer. Menthol, turpentine, Sudan gum acacia, and ammonia sulphate are easier. The principal movements have been as under:

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Almond oil ¹ (B.P.)	Benzols Castor oil (Eng.)	Ammonia sulphate	Acetyl- salicylic acid
Balsam (Canada)	Copaiba Copper	Antimony Capsicums Gum acacia (Sudan)	Cocaine Codeine and salts
Celery-seed	sulphate	Lead products	Quicksilver
Chillies	Potash prussiate	Menthol	
Citric acid	Wahoo bark	Milk-sugar	
Cod-liver oil	Wild-cherry bark	Rosin	
Pulv. seidlitz		Turpentine	
Soda tartarata			
Tragacanth (fine)			

As announced in our last issue, the next drug auctions will take place on Wednesday, March 19, when new goods only will be offered.

Cablegrams.

BERGEN, March 12.—The weather in the Lofoten district appears to be improving, and the fishing is being resumed; in other districts the weather continues stormy. The market for finest non-freezing medicinal oil is very firm, and practically no arrivals of new oil have yet been received; the quotation is therefore nominal.

NEW YORK, March 12.—Opium is steady at \$5.80 per lb. for druggists'. Peppermint oil in tins is quiet at \$2.80. Cartagena ipecacuanha is firmer at \$1.85, and copaiba is nominal at 45c. per lb. Canada balsam has advanced to \$12 per gall., and for Oregon balsam \$1.40 per lb. is quoted. Jalap is lower at 20c., menthol steady at \$8.50, and cascara sagrada quiet at 7½c. per lb.

London Markets.

ACID, ACETYL-SALICYLIC.—The convention of makers have reduced their prices by 3d. per lb., the quotation for small lots being 2s. 5d. per lb. net; contract lots of 1 cwt. are quoted 2s. 2d. 2-cwt. 2s. 1½d., 5-cwt. 2s. 1d., and ton lots 2s., net cash. Competition is said to be the cause of the reduction. The previous change in prices was in September 1911, when an advance of 3d. took place. Some of the acid offered is of unsatisfactory quality, evidently containing a trace of iron, which gives it a pinky colour.

ALMOND OIL.—The English pressers, owing to the scarcity of almonds, have been compelled to advance their prices by 1*d.* per lb. to 2*s.* 3*d.* in cwt. lots, and to 2*s.* 4*d.* in smaller quantities.

ALOES.—Twelve cases of Zanzibar in monkey-skins have arrived; also 20 packages of Cape.

AMERICAN DRUGS.—The following are current quotations for original packages of barks, herbs, leaves, and roots for shipment from the U.S.A. on c.i.f. terms, to arrive unless otherwise indicated: *Barks.*—Black haw of root, 10*d.* per lb. (also 9*d.* on spot); dogwood, 4½*d.*; elm, 5*d.* to 5½*d.* (spot 5*d.*); euonymus or wahoo of root, 1*s.* 7*d.* (or 1*s.* 5½*d.* spot); sassafras, 7*d.* (on spot); wild cherry 4½*d.*; witch-hazel, 2½*d.* *Herbs.*—Lobelia, 8*d.*; scullcap, 9½*d.* *Leaves.*—Damiana, 5½*d.*; witch-hazel, 3½*d.* *Roots.*—Blue flag, 9*d.*; elecampane, 4½*d.*; gelsemium, 3½*d.*; culvers, 8*d.*; mandrake, 33*s.*; bloodroot, 5½*d.*; serpentine, 1*s.* 7*d.*; and stillingia, 4½*d.* per lb.

ANISE OIL, STAR, is rather easier, with retail sales of Red Ship brand at 6*s.* 8½*d.*, and to arrive 5*s.* 10½*d.* c.i.f. is about the value for March-April shipment.

ANISEED is slow of sale at 25*s.* per cwt. for fair Russian.

BALSAM, CANADA, has been sold at the advanced rate of 5*s.* on the spot. Our New York cable quotes \$12 per American gallon, which is equal to about a laid-down cost of 5*s.* 6*d.* per lb.

BENZON.—Sumatra has been in good general demand between the auctions, chiefly for gum between 6*l.* 15*s.* and 8*l.* 5*s.* per cwt. Forty cases have arrived.

BERGAMOT OIL.—A Palermo advice, dated March 8, reports that the market appears to be getting into a more regular condition, and speculators who thought they might again this year work up a strong position such as they did last season find themselves disappointed, as the actual demand from consumers has not given them the necessary support; while local requirements also have not influenced the market to any extent.

CAMPHOR.—China crude is a quiet market at 172*s.* 6*d.* spot. Japanese refined is quoted at 1*s.* 7*d.* for 1-oz. and 1*s.* 7½*d.* for ¼-oz. tablets.

CANARY-SEED is quieter, with buyers holding off, but sellers are firm at 100*s.* per quarter for ordinary and 102*s.* 6*d.* for good Morocco.

CARAWAY-SEED is unchanged at 26*s.* to 27*s.* per cwt. for fair to good Dutch on the spot.

CASSIA OIL.—To arrive a fair business has recently been done, comprising 80 to 85 per cent. c.a. at 3*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 3*d.*, and 70 to 75 per cent. at 2*s.* 11½*d.* c.i.f. terms.

CASTOR OIL.—Hull make is 5*s.* per ton higher at 29*l.* 5*s.* for first pressing for the last half March delivery, 29*l.* for April, 28*l.* 10*s.* for May-June, and 27*l.* 10*s.* for July-December delivery per ton (barrels included), usual terms, delivered free on wharf London; pure cold-drawn pharmaceutical is 50*s.* per ton over the price of firsts, and oil in tins and cases 50*s.* per ton over the respective price in barrels. Belgian firsts is quoted 29*l.* for prompt and 28*l.* for April-December delivery, ex wharf London. Good seconds Calcutta is quoted 3½*d.* per lb. in Liverpool for spot parcels.

CELERY-SEED.—French has advanced to 170*s.* per cwt. c.i.f.

CHIRETTA.—Sales have been made at 3½*d.* per lb.; some holders ask 4*d.* to 4½*d.*

CITRIC ACID is dearer and a very strong market at 1*s.* 9*d.* per lb. in limited quantities for prompt delivery.

COCAINE.—A not unexpected decline of 8*d.* per oz. has taken place in the official price of hydrochloride, which is now quoted by several makers at 6*s.* 4*d.* in 175-oz. lots, and by one maker at 6*s.* 2*d.*

COD-LIVER OIL.—A little over a week ago the finest new Norwegian medicinal oil was selling at 90*s.* per barrel c.i.f., whereas to-day the quotation is practically 150*s.*, a rise of 65 per cent., which is probably a record advance in so short a space of time. It is primarily due to the continued stormy weather off the Norwegian coast, and when it is considered that Lofoten (which produces the finest oil) has only

yielded 1,290 hectolitres this season, there is evidently going to be a great scarcity of tip-top oil. A very fair business has been done in the new oil at up to 145*s.* per barrel c.i.f., with 150*s.* asked; other quotations for new oil, which, however, are not firm, are from 120*s.* to 135*s.*, and some agents are unable to offer. In 1912 oil a good business has been done at a very wide range, at from 86*s.* to 105*s.*, and for finest brands at up to 125*s.*

Our Bergen correspondent writes on March 10 that we have had continually stormy weather, and fishing has in many places been entirely interrupted for several weeks; the increase in the catch is therefore quite insignificant. To-day's reports gives the following numbers for:

Lofoten.			
	1911	1912	1913
Catch of cod (millions) ...	3.9	7.2	2.
Yield of cod-liver oil (hect.) ...	4,800	5,550	1,290
Livers for "raw" oils (hect.) ...	470	500	265

Whole Country.			
	1911	1912	1913
Catch of cod (millions) ...	11.6	27.1	12.1
Yield of cod-liver oil (hect.) ...	8,500	22,800	9,350
Livers for "raw" oils (hect.) ...	3,100	4,100	3,100

Prices on the market have continually advanced, and will probably continue to do so until calmer weather sets in and fishing can be proceeded with regularly. The present quotation for non-congealing 1912 is 97*s.* per barrel c.i.f., and of new season's oil the supplies are practically nil, and no quotation can be given.

In the course of a circular issued by an Aalesund maker it is stated that the production in 1912 was the largest on record, amounting to 76,202 hectolitres of crude oil, or about the equivalent of 58,000 barrels non-freezing oil. However, the demand from abroad was exceedingly brisk, so that the exportation was much larger, reaching the high figure of 61,000 barrels. Thus the exports not only swelled the large production of 1912, but the stock carried over to 1913 was three to four thousand barrels smaller than it was a year ago. In addition, a large quantity of old oil has been stored in such an unsatisfactory manner that it has deteriorated, and is quite useless for medicinal purposes. The stock of medicinal oil was therefore much smaller than could have been expected.

CODEINE.—The makers have reduced their prices for codeine and salts by 9*d.* to 10*d.* per oz., the following being current:

	Small lots	Contracts over 6 months
	70 oz.	175 oz.
Pure cryst. ...	15 <i>s.</i> 5 <i>d.</i> ...	15 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i> ...
Pure precip. ...	15 <i>s.</i> 5 <i>d.</i> ...	15 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i> ...
Hydrochlor. ...	13 <i>s.</i> 7 <i>d.</i> ...	13 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i> ...
Sulphate ...	13 <i>s.</i> 7 <i>d.</i> ...	13 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i> ...
Phosphate ...	12 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> ...	11 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i> ...

The above prices are net, without engagement, and contracts are booked subject to the falling clause on undelivered balances.

COPAIBA is rather firmer to arrive, cleared Maracaibo (B.P.) offering at 1*s.* 11½*d.* c.i.f. and 2*s.* net on spot.

COPPER SULPHATE is 5*s.* per ton higher at 23*l.* 15*s.* to 24*l.* per ton for the usual Liverpool brands, for prompt, April offering at 23*l.* 10*s.*

CORIANDEER-SEED is firm at 15*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for sound old crop and 16*s.* for new on the spot. Slightly wormy is offering at 14*s.* per cwt.

CUMIN-SEED.—Holders are asking 25*s.* per cwt. for fair Morocco, but there is very little demand.

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—Small sales of *Reed* have been made at 7*l.* 15*s.* per cwt. The 33 cases reported last week have arrived, part consisting of fine reboiled lump, part saucer of fair colour, and part low drossy.

FENNEL-SEED.—Small sales are reported at 19*s.* per cwt. for East Indian.

FENUGREEK-SEED is quoted 9*s.* 9*d.* to 10*s.* per cwt. for Morocco on the spot, with only a retail trade doing.

GALLS.—Chinese are quoted 48*s.* c.i.f. for March-April shipment; Persian blue are worth from 46*s.* to 47*s.* as to quality and quantity.

GAMBOGE.—Eight cases are close at hand.

GENTIAN is quoted at 26*s.* c.i.f. to arrive, and at 26*s.* 9*d.* on the spot; 116 bales have arrived from Bordeaux.

GRINDELIA ROBUSTA is quoted at from 4*d.* to 5*d.* per lb. c.i.f. to arrive, according to seller.

GUAIACUM.—Fifteen packages have arrived.

GUM ACACIA.—Sudan sorts are easier on spot, fair half-hard offering at 33s. to 34s., and to arrive at 31s. c.i.f. Some arrivals of Senegal gum are shortly expected on the London market.

HYDRASTIS is quoted 16s. 9d. per lb. net, c.i.f. terms.

IPECACUANHA.—The 21 bales Johore just arrived will be offered next week; they are of much better quality than the previous consignment; 3 bales Matto Grosso have also arrived. This description is quoted sellers at 9s., Minas 8s. 6d., and Cartagena 8s. per lb.

LEMON OIL.—With the present unsettled market, business continues of a retail description, good brands offering on the spot at from 12s. to 13s. 6d. per lb., according to holder; to arrive quotations are from 11s. 9d. to 13s. c.i.f.

A Palermo advice dated March 8 states that the market has been continually fluctuating during the week. Some orders for terpenelless having arrived from abroad, local makers have been in the market for oil for immediate delivery, and gave open orders, paying higher prices than the closing figures of last week, as holders did not fail to take advantage of the occasion. These requirements having been covered, the tendency slackened again, as the demand for genuine export trade is still lacking. On the whole there is no new feature, nor any determined tendency apparent in the market, and the same nervous and uncertain feeling which has been ruling since the beginning of the crisis is still prominent.

LINSEED is unchanged at 52s. 6d. to 56s. per quarter for good to fine clean quality.

MENTHOL is rather easier, Kobayashi offering at 28s. 6d., with a possibility of 28s. leading to business.

MILK-SUGAR is tending easier at from 54s. to 55s. per cwt., the lower quotation for ton-lots.

OILS (FIXED).—*Linseed* is easier, closing at 24s. in pipes and at 24s. 6d. in barrels. English refined *Rape oil* is rather firmer at 31s. 9d. in casks, ordinary crude being quoted at 29s. 3d. for spot delivery. Crude *Cottonseed* is quiet and unchanged at 27s. 3d., ordinary pale refined being 28s., and sweet refined 31s. *Coconut* is steady at 47s. spot for Cochin, and at 44s. for Ceylon. *Soya oil* is quoted at 26s. 9d. in barrels on the spot. *Lagos Palm oil* is rather firmer at 32s. 3d. in Liverpool, the spot price being 35s. *China wood-oil* is easier at 30s. 3d. on spot and at 30s. 6d. c.i.f. for April-May. *Turpentine* has declined a further 9d. on the week, American closing at 30s. 3d. spot, and at 30s. 4½d. for April delivery. *Petroleum* is quiet at 8½d. for Russian, 8½d. for ordinary refined American, and 9½d. water-white.

OLIBANUM is unaltered, with business in siftings at 20s. per cwt.

OPIMUM.—The damage by frost to the growing opium crop has been confirmed, but its extent is unknown, and it will be another month or so before it can be ascertained. Meanwhile no business is being done, but the prices cabled indicate a firmer market at primary sources, Smyrna offering 11 per cent. at 17s. 6d. c.i.f., and a wire from Constantinople quotes 18s. A moderate business has been done in Persian, the prices for which are from 19s. to 22s. 6d. on the spot as to test.

A Smyrna correspondent writes on February 28 that the sales this week amount to 22 cases current mixed qualities (10 per cent. to 10½ per cent.) at 140 to 145 ptrs., which is equivalent to 15s. 6d. and 16s. The higher bases this week in our quotations is owing to the late heavy fall of snow in the interior, which precludes any field work being carried on, and thus the spring opium sowings are materially retarded. Besides, the snow not melting is detrimental to the poppy already sown during the autumn and winter seasons. Richer grades to the extent of five cases also changed hands at 17s. 6d., and for the present sellers, owing to the adverse weather conditions, do not mean to make any concession. The arrivals in Smyrna are 2,291 cases, against 1,122 at same date last year.—A Constantinople correspondent writes on March 8 that the sales for the week amount to three cases inferior druggists' at from 230 to 240 ptrs., 24 cases "soft" at from 250 to 267 ptrs., and two cases Malatias at 250 ptrs. Prices are maintained, with holders of druggists' quality reserved. Weather is fine, and when the snow melts the state of the growing crops will be ascertained. The arrivals in Constantinople amount to 2,434 cases (comprising 1,250

druggists', 846 soft, 338 Malatia), against 1,285 cases (comprising 848 druggists', 376 soft, and 61 Malatia) in 1912. The stock is 826 cases (comprising 510 druggists', 202 soft, and 114 Malatia), against 179 cases (comprising 156 druggists', 19 soft, and four Malatia) in 1912.

ORANGE OIL.—A Palermo advice dated March 8 states that the market, which has been rather slack during the past few weeks, has now somewhat improved owing to a few inquiries. *Sweet and bitter* is offered at 11s. 1d. per lb. c.i.f. London.

PEPPERMINT OIL.—American remains unchanged, agents quoting 12s. for best brands, with second-hands offering at 11s. 6d. to 11s. 9d., at which business has been done. Spot price of Kobayashi is 7s., and 6s. 9d. for Suzuki.

QUICKSILVER.—On Monday the principal importer reduced his first-hand price by 5s. per bottle to 7l. 10s., but second-hands, which had in the interim fallen to 7l., has been fluctuating, closing at 7l. 1s. to 7l. 1s. 6d.

QUILLAIA.—On the spot sellers of whole quote 30l. and crushed 35l. per ton; in Liverpool the quotation is nominal at 30l. 10s., practically nothing being offered.

QUININE.—Quiet, with second-hand sellers of the usual German brands 10d. to 10½d. per oz. A report was current that the agreement had been signed, but it lacked confirmation; neither side seems in an immediate hurry to commit themselves, and it is evident that the knotty points, such as the attempt of Java planters to dictate at what price quinine should be sold by the European makers, cannot be satisfactorily settled.

At the auction of quinine held at Amsterdam on March 7, 1,417½ kilos. (50,000 oz.) Ed. II. were offered, and bought in at fl.17.50 per kilo. The next auction will be held on March 28.

SANTOXIN is unaltered at 97s. 9d. per lb. net for 1-cwt. lots, up to 107s. 6d. being quoted for smaller parcels; second-hands offer small lots at about 100s.

SARSAPARILLA remains very scarce, as testified by the high prices paid last week. Five bales grey Jamaica have arrived, and a few bales of Native-Jamaica.

SHELLAC is rather firmer, with fair business passing on the basis of 80s. for fair TN orange; AC garnet is quoted 78s., and at 68s. for GAL. For arrival April-June shipment of TN is quoted 83s., AC garnet at 77s. 6d., and GAL at 67s. c.i.f. Futures have been quiet, the sales including May delivery at 81s. to 79s. 6d., and August at 83s. to 83s. 6d. to 82s. and sellers.

SODA TARTARATE.—The English makers have advanced their prices for *soda tart. pulv.* by 3s. per cwt., and *pulv. seidlitz* by 2s. 3d. per cwt., making the prices as follows: Soda tart. pulv., or cryst., in 5-cwt. casks, 77s., and 28-lb. lots 80s.; pulv. seidlitz in 5-cwt. casks 64s. 9d.; and in 28-lb. lots 67s. per cwt.

SOY is moving off in fair quantities, the price of Seuloong being unaltered at 1s. 7d. per gal., with no Wochan available. The *Monmouthshire* has brought 250 casks.

SPIRMACETI.—American refined is quoted 11d. to 11½d. per lb., ex warehouse.

SPICES.—At auction 36 cases Penang *Cloves* sold at 1s. per lb. Privately, Zanzibar are dearer, with rather more business doing, the value of fair on the spot being 10½d. The sales for shipment include January-March at 10½d. to 10½d.; new crop for September-November at 6½d., and October-December at 6½d. c.i.f. d.w. For delivery January-March has been done at 10½d. to 10½d., March-May at 10½d., and June-August 10½d. *Chillies* were dearer, ten bags Nyasaland selling at 47s. On the other hand, easier prices were accepted for *Capsicums*, 148 bags Nyasaland selling at 19s. for fair red, 14s. to 16s. for mixed and slightly yellowish, and at 12s. 6d. to 13s. 6d. for mostly perished. *Ginger* quiet at auction, 320 bags of Cochin washed being bought in at from 33s. to 35s. for fair part slightly mouldy, and 32s. for wormy. Privately, 23s. is quoted in Liverpool for African. *Cinnamon* was steady at auction, 12 cases Tellicherry quills selling without reserve at 1s. 3d. for firsts and seconds, and at 9½d. for 24 bales broken. Of Seychelles bark 100 bags were bought in at 2½d. for coarse. Of *Pepper* moderate supplies were offered, for which there

was practically no demand. Privately, fair Singapore is quoted at $5\frac{1}{2}d.$; sellers of March-May ask $4\frac{3}{4}d.$, and June-August at $4\frac{3}{4}d.$ Lampong for August-October steamer shipment is quoted sellers at $4\frac{7}{8}d.$ c.i.f. d.w. Of white pepper at auction, 49 bags Singapore and 128 bags Muntok were bought in. Privately, the market is quiet, with sellers of fair Singapore at $8\frac{5}{8}d.$ and fair Muntok at $8\frac{3}{4}d.$ For arrival, sellers of Singapore for near shipment quote $8\frac{1}{2}d.$ and distant at $8\frac{1}{8}d.$ West Indian *Nutmegs* were steady for sound, and slightly easier for defective, 140 packages being disposed of out of 185 offered. West Indian *Mace* was steady, 12 packages selling at $2s. 3d.$ for fair pale and reddish, and at $2s.$ to $2s. 1d.$ for dark red.

TRAGACANTH.—Fine druggists' quality is much dearer, the value of such being between $17l.$ and $17l. 10s.$ per cwt., whereas at the beginning of the year the value was about $15l.$

TURMERIC is very slow, with retail sales of good Madras finger at $22s.$ on spot.

WAX, BEES'.—In Liverpool $7l. 10s.$ per cwt. is quoted for Gambia; the market generally is very firm, with little offering.

WAX, CARNAUBA.—Business has been done at $157s. 6d.$ per cwt. for chalk grey.

Cinchona and Quinine.

In the current number of "Der Tropenpflanzer," Herr Böhringer, of Stuttgart and Colombo, gives an account of the Ceylon rubber industry and of Java cinchona in 1912. He gives the export of Java cinchona in the last four years as follows:

	lb.		lb.
1909 ...	15,736,000	1911 ...	16,616,000
1910 ...	18,043,000	1912 ...	16,190,000

Commenting on the proposed "arrangement" between planters and quinine manufacturers, he points out that the planters can quite easily increase the unit price for bark by suppressing the output of poor bark, and so stopping over-production. He considers that no diminution of the consumption of quinine would occur if the price of sulphate were raised to $35m.$ to $40m.$ per kilo, though the anti-malarial campaigns now being undertaken in many parts of the tropics may eventually cause the demand for quinine to fall off, and he thinks that the beginnings of such an effect can be seen already in Ceylon and India.

Large Find of Ambergis.

In further reference to the large find of ambergis mentioned in last week's *C. & D.*, we are now in receipt of a newspaper cutting from the "Hobart Mercury," which says that the "Bluff Press" (N.Z.) reports that what is stated to be a world's record for its kind is the finding on January 22 by Captain Larsen, of the steam-whaler *Norwegia*, of the huge quantity of 900 lb. of ambergis, nearly pure, worth approximately 60,000*l.*, taken from a whale captured in the vicinity of Cuttle Cove, in Solanders. Captain Larsen, suspecting that the whale, from its appearance, might contain ambergis, caused an investigation to be made a huge lump on the mammal's shoulder. The men cutting through struck what they thought was bone, but a personal examination by the captain revealed the supposed bone to be ambergis. He said nothing about the discovery until he reached Bluff, when he had the mass carefully tested by a qualified chemist, and the diagnosis revealed that the lump contained 80 per cent. of pure ambergis. The London "Daily Mail," it may be recalled, gave the alleged weight of the find as "half a ton," so that if the 900-lb. (14,400-oz.) figure should prove correct, they are 220 lb. beyond the mark. However, the find must be regarded as the largest on record. No doubt the ambergis will find its way to London piecemeal, as we understand it practically consists of one lump. It would be interesting to have had a more detailed description of the quality, but a qualified chemist is not as a rule an expert judge of ambergis.

Heavy Chemicals.

There is a fair amount of business passing in the heavy-chemical market, but nevertheless the position of affairs is rather quiet, particularly as regards new purchases. Deliveries against existing contracts, however, keep up steadily, and are about normal. The general tone of the market is steady, and fluctuations in values are only few and comparatively slight, and in view of the heavy costs of production there is little or no tendency towards material decline.

BENZOLS only maintain a quiet tone, but close firm, with present naked figures $10\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $10\frac{3}{4}d.$ for 90-per-cent. and

$10\frac{1}{2}d.$ for 50-per-cent.; North, $10d.$ to $10\frac{1}{2}d.$ and $10d.$ respectively.

BICHRIMATE OF POTASH AND SODA continue to move steadily at late rates. Bichromate of potash, English and Scotch deliveries, $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb., less 5 per cent., and export $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. net f.o.b. Glasgow. Bichromate of soda, English and Scotch deliveries, $3d.$ per lb., less 5 per cent., and export $2\frac{3}{4}d.$ per lb. net f.o.b. Glasgow.

LEAD PRODUCTS are in some cases lower, more particularly pipes and sheets, though at the moment the tone is somewhat better than it has been. Present nearest: Dry white lead, $24l.$; red lead, $18l. 10s.$; pig lead, $16l.$; sheets, $20l. 10s.$; and pipes, $21l.$ per ton Tyne. Acetates of lead are fairly steady and in moderate request. White acetate of lead, $26l.$ to $26l. 10s.$; brown acetate of lead, $24l.$ to $25l.$; and nitrate of lead, $27l. 10s.$ to $28l.$

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA is again a shade lower at all ports, and the market is quiet. Beckton, 25-per-cent. ammonia guaranteed, March-April, $13l. 15s.$; London terms, prompt, $13l. 5s.$; Leith, $14l. 2s. 6d.$; Liverpool, $14l. 1s. 3d.$; and Hull, $14l.$

ZINC SALTS maintain a steady tone with fair demand. Zinc sulphate crystals, $7l. 10s.$ to $7l. 15s.$; and zinc chloride, 100° Tw. solution, $7l. 10s.$ to $7l. 15s.$ per ton.

London Drug Statistics.

THE following statistics are compiled from information supplied by public warehouses. They relate to the receipts and deliveries of some of the leading drugs from and into the London public warehouses for the month of February, and to the stocks on February 23, 1913:

	February		Stocks		1913	
	Landed	Delivd	1913	1912	Imprtd.	Delivd.
Aloes.....cs. etc.	95	112	1,113	1,054	232	248
".....gourds	—	142	1,322	1,092	—	142
Anise, star.....cs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arrowroot.....pkgs.	1,361	803	3,728	2,468	2,244	1,442
Balsams.....cks.	1	7	117	233	5	13
Calumba.....pkgs.	—	84	2,111	1,246	28	319
Camphor....."	202	936	1,593	1,806	1,190	1,892
Cardamoms ... "	134	24	673	503	419	367
Cascara sagrada tons	—	9	271	269	5	33
Cinchona.....pkgs.	580	523	3,443	4,183	845	855
Cochineal.....bgs.	73	16	28	377	88	86
Cubebs....."	10	—	200	151	127	—
Dragon's-blood pkgs.	5	31	84	146	20	46
Galls....."	756	19	2,843	2,225	756	162
Gums—						
Ammoniacum ..	—	8	13	7	—	8
Animi....."	44	139	314	472	164	187
Arabic....."	546	555	8,420	5,094	1,666	1,814
Asafetida....."	544	140	2,183	843	813	220
Benzoin....."	148	182	780	441	297	275
Copal....."	4,310	3,972	13,593	22,273	8,879	8,066
Damar....."	1,458	837	5,216	5,546	2,052	1,931
Gamboge....."	12	26	126	105	50	42
Guaiaacum....."	2	7	21	49	2	11
Kauri.....tons net	105	50	206	447	127	80
Kino.....pkgs.	—	—	58	15	—	1
Mastic....."	10	—	24	17	10	—
Myrrh, E.I...."	16	31	414	469	16	69
Olibanum....."	40	55	1,311	623	81	90
Sandarac....."	116	74	357	361	149	225
Tragacanth....."	765	1,550	5,553	4,981	1,363	2,973
Ipecacuanha—						
Cartagena ... "	7	3	23	31	7	3
E.I. (Johore) ..	—	48	21	14	45	57
Matto Grosso ..	—	27	81	36	—	34
Minas....."	15	16	49	25	34	44
Jalap.....bls.	46	40	223	61	45	57
Nux vomica.....pkgs.	—	132	220	135	124	220
Oils—						
*Anise, star.....cs.	10	11	19	22	25	16
*Cassia....."	—	7	35	37	—	17
Castor.....pkgs.	121	119	173	224	193	208
Coconut.....tons	50	73	336	614	160	213
Olive.....pkgs.	395	410	1,741	1,636	573	92
Palm.....tons	—	—	71	3	7	7
Quinine.....lb.	21,374	16,058	232,529	247,560	28,779	20,021
Rhubarb.....cs.	1,200	73	2,884	337	1,784	126
Sarsaparilla.....bls.	31	54	186	240	46	71
Senna.....pkgs.	138	238	1,893	1,751	233	435
Shellac.....cs.	3,191	5,734	96,196	99,777	8,236	10,460
Turmeric.....tons	8	20	433	312	10	62
Wax—						
Bees'.....pkgs.	219	592	1,579	1,374	401	928
Vegetable ... "	109	102	654	471	148	128

* Stocks of essential oils at Smith's Wharf and Brewer's Quay are not included.



Memoranda for Correspondents.

All communications must be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, otherwise they cannot be dealt with. Queries by subscribers on dispensing, legal, and miscellaneous subjects connected with the business are replied to in these columns if they are considered to be of general interest.

Letters submitted for publication (if suitable) should be written on one side of the paper only. Their publication in "The Chemist and Druggist" does not imply Editorial agreement with the opinions expressed.

Dispensing Solutions.

The passage in Mr. W. B. Allison's letter (*C. & D.*, March 8, index folio 400) should have read as follows:

Solutions 1 in 6 by taking of the respective salts (using troy and apothecaries') 3vj. 3v. 3j. and water to 40 oz.
Or 3iij. 3ij. 3ij. and water to 20 oz.
Label: 1 drachm contains 10 grains (1 in 6).
Solutions (1 in 3) 3xiiij. 3ij. 3ij. and water to 40 oz.
Label: 1 drachm contains 20 grains (1 in 3).

Eucalyptus Oil, B.P.?

SIR,—We note with extreme satisfaction Mr. E. J. Parry's statement in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* that in his opinion eucalyptus oils which contain amygdalina oil cannot be considered B.P., although their figures are within the limits, and they answer the official test for the presence of phellandrene. We think it is a matter of regret that this view is not more generally held by other eminent analysts and respected members in the trade. The view they take is that the context of the B.P. monograph is not so definite as to exclude *Eucalyptus amygdalina* when present in a mixture, and that, providing the figures on the oil are within the limits and that phellandrene is not indicated by the official test, the oil must be considered B.P. As the whole question really depends on the presence of phellandrene, it becomes of interest to ascertain the efficiency of the official test to detect a moderate percentage. We have therefore prepared mixtures of a pure eucalyptus oil and the amygdalina in varying proportions, and we find that even when the mixture contains as much as 50 per cent. of the amygdalina no indication of phellandrene will be afforded by the official test; in fact, it was not until the proportion of the amygdalina reached about 80 per cent. that any definite indication of phellandrene was obtained. It appears, therefore, that from the point of view of detecting the amygdalina oil in mixtures the official test is useless. We then tried the modified test suggested by Messrs. Hill and Umney in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*, February 12, 1910, and found it to work very satisfactorily; in fact, as little as 5 per cent. of amygdalina oil can be detected by this method. The ridiculous state of affairs existing at present is well exemplified by two samples of eucalyptus oil recently submitted to us, the characteristics of which were as follows:

	A.	B.
Sp. gr.	0.902	0.912
Optical rotation	-9.0	-8.0
Eucalyptol	55.0	58.0
Official phellandrene test ...	nil	nil
Hill and Umney's test ...	large amount	large amount

Sample A, which was a wharf sample, was submitted first, and the specific gravity not being in the official limits the sample was rejected. It contained a large amount of amygdalina oil. Sample B, which was "ex land carriage," and was submitted a week later, will be seen to be just within the limits, but it also contained a large amount of the amygdalina, and in odour was very similar to "A." It is in our opinion probable that oil "B" is simply "A" to which has been added some pure eucalyptus oil in order to bring the gravity within the official limits. It would surely be a farce to condemn "A" and yet pass "B." Sample B was submitted to an eminent analyst who admitted that it contained the amygdalina oil, yet did not hesitate to pass it as B.P.

It is to be hoped that this state of affairs will not continue much longer, and that the compilers of the next Pharmacopœia will so draw up the eucalyptus oil monograph as to exclude all possibility of doubt.—Yours faithfully,

MAURICE S. SALAMON, B.Sc., F.C.S.

WILLIAM M. SEABER, B.Sc., F.I.C., F.C.S.

Insurance Dispensing in Scotland.

SIR,—Several letters indicate a misunderstanding which appears to have arisen from a report in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*, February 15, index folio 263, of a meeting of the Leith District Chemists' Association. That report gives a series of points that were agreed upon by the Leith Association itself, and these were not, as the report indicates, recommendations in a communication from the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee (Scotland). I will be obliged if you will kindly insert this letter to remove this misunderstanding.

I am, yours faithfully,

J. RUTHERFORD HILL.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to say through your columns to correspondents much too numerous to answer individually that the great mass of suggestions which have reached the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee (Scotland), and which are daily being added to, are having very close attention and most careful consideration; that opportunity has already been taken to indicate to the Insurance Commissioners the main points on which a case for consideration will be based; that the gathering of the necessary statistics and the actual results of the working of the present regulations and drug-tariff is being vigorously prosecuted in co-operation with local Associations; that not a moment will be lost in having placed formally before the Insurance Commissioners a detailed and reasoned statement of the claims of Scottish pharmacists on all points on which the general sense of the pharmacists of Scotland indicates a desire for improved conditions of service; and that every effort is daily being made and will continue to be made to safeguard and improve as far as possible the position of persons, firms, and bodies corporate undertaking pharmacy service under the Insurance Act?

I am, yours faithfully,

J. RUTHERFORD HILL,

Secretary, Pharmaceutical Standing Committee (Scotland).

Fair Play (5/70) writes a follow-up to "Country Pharmacists'" letter (*C. & D.*, February 1, index folio 208) about how the dispensing part affects Scottish chemists: "We must stand together in this matter, and demand our rights. Only by adopting a firm and united front will we ever succeed." After political references and criticism of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee's report of March 8, he concludes: "Let us, in Scotland, show the Commissioners that we mean to have justice, and that means a separate tariff. Let us unite on as few changes as possible, and stand together for them, as for example: (1) Double the present dispensing-fee; (2) minimum fee of 2d. where no dispensing-fee is allowed; (3) abolish halfpenny rates, and make one penny the minimum; (4) abolish flat rates; (5) accounts paid monthly without any deduction. If these are granted we could continue to work the Act, although we would not grow fat on it."

Insurance Act Dispensing.

SIR,—If what "Xrayser II." says be true, that a fair percentage of the chemists who previous to the Act were half employed are now without much extra labour earning 180l. a year by dispensing fifty scripts per day, is it certain that all cannot be paid in full on the 2s. basis? Some of the single-handed men mentioned are getting more than their share of the refreshing fruit, while others less fortunate are not getting their 9d. for 4d. Evenly distributed, the average chemist could not expect many more than 1,000 insured persons, whereas fifty scripts represents 4,000. I should like to have a postcard and congratulate all single-handed men who are doing as well as represented. "Xrayser's" radium-mines must be subjected to analysis, and the workings proved as profitable as the prospectus. Perhaps these visions of Klondyke are the cause of so many small limited-liability chemists' businesses being floated lately. While it has been shown that there are too many chemists in business to get a decent living, it is apparent to everyone that a small

amount of Insurance dispensing will not compensate for the loss of retail trade, a medium share will not pay for extra labour, while an avalanche of twopenny scripts morning and evening must disorganise any ordinary business. Under the circumstances who stands the best chance of dispensing on factory lines? It looks as though the individual hard-working pharmacist is going to be sacrificed, and qualified supervision diluted to 1 in 1,000. Much has been said of the slipshod methods of prescribing and dispensing by doctors; now we are told that we must learn the new rapid systems of dispensing and become lightning calculators. A little more exposure of our methods and the enormous profits we are making, and we shall stand a rare chance of getting a rise in wages from the Government. Give the Chancellor a few more wrinkles, and we shall be threatened with dispensing while you wait, with the penny-in-the-slot machine for delivery. It is not the Insurance Commissioners we have to fear, if our case is honestly and clearly stated, but representative men in our own ranks, who say we are satisfied, who talk about 50 per cent. profits without stating that it is on "ha'porths of drugs" and "six-penny maximums" which entail, say, ten distinct operations or calculations before the "tanner" is booked. Another shibboleth is that we earn 3s. per hour: looks like 36s. per day wages alone. To a Commissioner this would sound lucrative until you point out that while the chemist and his stock and premises are on service twelve hours per day the dispenser is only paid for the minutes he is actually employed. He is not insured against unemployment, he may get much, little, or nothing to do; in other words, he keeps open a State dispensary, and is not guaranteed State pay, and runs the risk of it all for a wage for which any first-class artisan would refuse to give up his liberty.

Yours truly,

J. J. JACKSON, Ph.C.

Hereford.

A *Careful Dispenser* (5/51) deprecates "H. Ustle's" quick methods of dispensing (see *C. & D.*, March 1, index folio 353), for the reason that if "the authorities realise that the prescriptions give so little trouble, and receive little more attention than a grocer would devote to wrapping sugar, the dispensing-fee will be doomed either to extinction altogether or to very considerable reduction. Any belittling of the Insurance prescriptions in the public Press should be carefully avoided."

Mr. D. N. Wylic (Edinburgh), writing in regard to the anomalous pricing of tinctures (5iss. 1½d., 3ij. 1d.), says: "This must be an inadvertence. It is therefore the duty of the trade so to interpret the tariff as to minimise or to remove this discrepancy. This may be simply effected by the ounce superseding the drachm rate as soon as the sum chargeable under the former equals the sum chargeable under the latter, but not before. Thus 5iss. of tincture is priced 1½d., and under the ounce-rate 3ij. is priced 1½d., therefore 1½d. is the proper charge for 5iss. to 3ij. inclusive, thus avoiding the inconsistency."

S. P. G. (5/07) tells us of one of his Insurance clients who has had since January 29 thirteen bottles of medicine, representing 226 doses. As the directions run "5ss. every four hours," this man has had enough to last eleven weeks four days, presuming that he has taken it *night and day*. Thirteen visits to the doctor and thirteen to the chemist already, and the Act is barely two months old! He considers it will be necessary sooner or later to come to some understanding in such matters, especially in the case of persons like this, who know and care nothing about labels and measures, but take a sip of the bottle when they feel "so disposed." [Patience, we say. These things will be put straight in time. Rome was not built in a day.—EDITOR, *C. & D.*]

Subscribers' Symposium.

For questions, answers, incidents, and interchange of opinions among "C. & D." readers.

Hutchison's Skin-ointment.

Can you supply me with the formula for this ointment, which is believed to be an old preparation and non-proprietary?—A. S. (248/70).

Up to Date.

Here is an up-to-date prescription:

R. Elixir terpin. et herogen. co. ... 3iv.

Sig.: One teaspoonful in water every four hours.—P. B.

Legal Queries.

Before writing about your difficulty consult "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1913, pp. 211-242 and pp. 457-459, where most legal difficulties are anticipated.

Bee (6/41).—Read the article on Assistants in *C. & D. Diary*, p. 233.

Simon (250/17).—We have reported convictions of limited companies which continued to use old labels on poisons, as to which only is it a Pharmacy Act offence.

Druggist (5/44).—The reply to "Remijia" (*C. & D.*, March 8, index folio 403) was with reference to the exhibition of the certificate of qualification by the owner of a business which he manages himself. It is the person who carries on the business (not the employed manager) who is liable to a 5*l.* fine for not exhibiting the certificate.

Satol (224/39).—A limited company trading as "Jones's Pharmacy, Ltd.," which has no registered chemist in its employment, cannot use the title "Chemists" nor carry on the business of a chemist. If such a company employs a registered chemist as manager, his certificate should be exhibited in some part of the shop where it can be seen by customers.

Cream (258/31) asks if there is any danger under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act of using a BUTTER-POWDER composed of potassium nitrite and sodium bicarbonate, a tablespoonful being added to each gallon of cream. [Yes; under the Milk and Cream Regulations, which are fully referred to in the *C. & D. Diary*, p. 229, the addition of such a mixture to cream is illegal, if used for the preservation of cream, as the mixture is not one of the two preservatives permitted by the regulations.]

A. W. (259/38).—METHYLATED PREPARATIONS.—"The written consent of the Board of Customs and Excise is necessary for the use of 'industrial' spirits, and for the use of either kind of spirits by a retailer of methylated spirits in any art or manufacture carried on by him. A form of application may be obtained from the local officer of Customs and Excise." We quote this from the *C. & D. Diary*, p. 239. It has also appeared in previous *Diarics*. The writer to whom you refer has simply proved the correctness of our statement.

Nemo (259/5).—A sold his business to B out and out, but as the latter had no capital with which to carry on the business, A left him a sum of money to pay all accounts as they became due. The sum of money was the amount by which the debts owing from the business exceeded the debts payable to it. B now refuses to pay one account on the ground that the accounts due to the business do not cover the amount he has had to pay out. A is being pressed by the debtor for payment of the account, and wishes to know what his position is. [A is liable to pay the account in the first instance, unless there has been a novation of the debt; but A can, in his turn, recover the amount from B if B has agreed to discharge liabilities of the business incurred prior to the sale.]

J. W. G. (3/61).—METHYLATED SPIRIT IN PRESCRIPTIONS.—A doctor orders such prescriptions as:

Liq. plumbi	... 3ij.	S.V.M.	... 3ij.
Liq. picis carb.	... 3ij.	Aquam ad	... 3viij.
S.V.M.	... 5ss.	Misc.	
Aq. ad	... 3viij.		

What is the position of the chemist in such matters, and if he commit an illegal act what is the penalty? [If the chemist is not a licensed vendor of methylated spirits he may use the mineralised spirit in dispensing the prescriptions without infringement of the Spirits Act. If he is a retail vendor of the spirit he can only use the spirits in such prescriptions with the approval of the Customs and Excise. The penalty is a fine of 50*l.*]

Legue (260/55).—A TELEPHONE POLE was erected some years ago upon certain premises under an agreement between the landlord, who has since died, and the telephone company. The agreement is with the landlord only, and his executors or assigns are not referred to. "Legue" has taken a lease of the premises from the trustees of the landlord's widow, and wishes to have the pole removed, but the company ignore his requests for its removal. The lease does not refer to the pole at all. Is "Legue" bound by a clause in the agreement stating that if removal of the pole is required six months' notice, expiring on January 1, must be given to the company? [We are of opinion that the absence of reference to assigns, etc., in the agreement is immaterial, that "Legue" has taken the premises expressly or impliedly subject to the agreement with the company, and that he must give six months' notice to the company, expiring on January 1, if he wishes to have the pole removed.]

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We do not as a rule repeat information which has been given in this section during the past twelve months, as it occupies space which can be more profitably utilised for other information. In such cases the numbers are mentioned, and if querists cannot refer to these they may obtain the numbers from the "C. & D." Office at the published prices, usually 6d.

We do not undertake to analyse and report upon proprietary articles, and when samples are sent particulars should be supplied to us as to their origin, what they are, what they are used for and how.

H. W. (234/9).—ORANGE-WINE.—The following is a good recipe for this:

Stir well together 30 lb. of loaf-sugar, 10 gals. of soft water, and the whites of ten eggs well beaten; boil for an hour and a half, skim well, and put into a tub. When lukewarm add to it 10 oz. of syrup of lemons and 5 oz. of fresh beer-yeast, stirring well. Pare off the rinds of seven dozen oranges, squeeze out the juice and strain it. Add the juice and the rinds to the fermenting liquor, stirring ten minutes. Cover the tub, and after forty-eight hours strain the liquor through a fine sieve into a cask, which allow to remain open for three days; then, when the fermentation has ceased, close the cask. In twenty days draw off the wine as long as it runs clear; filter the lees, and return both to the cask with a quart of brandy, 4 oz. of sugar candy, and 1 oz. of isinglass dissolved in water. Mix well, close the cask, and allow to stand from four to twelve months before bottling. The longer it is kept the better.

Note that the manufacture of the wine for sale (in the form of plain or medicated wine) requires a licence.

J. W. H. (233/38).—TOOTH-PASTE COLOURING.—It would seem that "separation of colouring-matter" in a tooth-paste is due to improper mixing, or it may be that glycerin is present in too high a proportion. If you will refer us to the formula and send us a sample of the product that has separated we may be able to advise you as to preventing the trouble.

Malta (208/30).—BRANCH PHARMACIES IN ENGLAND are sometimes designated by the locality—e.g., a London pharmacist with his principal place of business in the City and two elsewhere, may refer to them as, say, Shepherd's Bush Branch and Hampstead Branch. It is not usual to place such designations on the branches, but "Branch of the City business," or something to that effect.

Replum (256/19).—We cannot trace your name in our subscription-list. Your queries are anticipated in "The Art of Dispensing," which deals with difficulties such as those you submit.

A. C. (259/40).—The College of Precptors' examinations (Medical and Pharmaceutical) and the London University's Matriculation examination are held in the provinces as well as in London. You can obtain full particulars of the former from the College, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., and of the latter from the University, South Kensington, London, S.W.

C. W. P. (157/32).—EMIGRATION.—For particulars of prospects "in any branch of trade" in New Zealand you should write to the Government Emigration Office, 34 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., and to the New Zealand Government Offices, 13 Victoria Street, London, S.W. In regard to the prospects in pharmacy you should refer to the *C. & D.*, June 18, 1910, p. 918; April 23, 1910, p. 624 (examinations); "The Chemist Abroad," 1909 *Diary*; and "Council by Colonial Confrères," April 24, 1909, p. 624.

W. F. (4/31).—ARCHIL OR ORCHIL is a colouring-matter obtained by fermenting various lichens of the genus *Rocella*. To prepare archil, the lichens are ground up with water to a pulp, stale urine or ammonium carbonate with a little quicklime is added, and the whole is allowed to ferment with frequent stirring to promote access of air. In about a week a violet colour is developed, which in a few days becomes brighter, and then constitutes ordinary archil. If sodium or potassium carbonate be added as well as ammonia a different change takes place, and the blue colouring-matter known as litmus is obtained. The three forms of archil in commerce are (1) a pasty mass called archil; (2) drier mass, persis; and (3) a reddish powder called cudbear. The last named is employed in the form of a tincture for colouring pharmaceutical preparations. One of the special uses of archil is for colouring marble, which it stains a beautiful violet colour, which is far more durable than the colour it communicates to other bodies.

T. S. J. (259/27).—CASEIN CEMENT.—The following are two forms of casein cement which are adapted for use in veneering. Freshly precipitated casein should be employed:

1.		2.	
Casein	... 10 oz.	Borax	... 1 part
Quicklime	... 1 oz.	Water	... 19 parts
Clove oil	... 20 drops	Casein	... a sufficiency
Make into a paste with water immediately before use.		Dissolve the borax in the water and add enough casein to make the cement of the consistency of honey.	

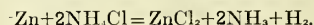
Izak Walton (259/4).—PRESERVING MINNOWS for fishing-purposes. The following solution is employed, and is evidently the kind to which you refer:

Formalin	... ..	1 oz.
Glycerin	... ..	1 oz.
Water to	... ..	20 oz.

A. N. (260/42).—CHEMICAL FUMES to use in place of smoke in demonstrating vortex rings are produced from ammonia and hydrochloric acid gases.

H. H. (2/3).—CARNAÜBA-WAX.—We cannot find any direct information regarding the use of carnaüba-wax as an ingredient of food. Having regard to its origin, it would doubtless be harmless, although its high melting-point would perhaps render it difficult of digestion, and hence irritation might result in the bowels.

E. & H. (1/2).—LECLANCHÉ'S CELL.—The components of this electric cell are given in *The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary*, 1911, p. 221, the chief being a rod of zinc and a solution of ammonium chloride. The reaction is



The zinc rod you send is crusted with zinc oxychloride, but contains also ammonium chloride.

Clyde (3/62).—WELDING COMPOSITION.—The composition of this resembles the second recipe given in the formulas on p. 214 of *The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary*, 1908, except that in this instance there is present a proportion of fat. The recipe referred to is as follows:

Borax	... ..	2 parts
Sal ammoniac	... ..	2 parts
Yellow prussiate of potash	... ..	1 part
Rosin	... ..	½ part
Iron filings	... ..	1 part

Pharmacist (257/66).—(1) NERVE-FOOD.—Of the various suggestions you put forward, we favour the mixture of casein and glycerophosphates. The proportion of the latter should be 5 per cent., and the food should be taken at regular intervals over a few weeks. Lecithin is also worth a trial; tablet-form being indicated in this case. (2) THALLIUM DEPILATORY.—The formula which you quote from the *C. & D.* (October 19, 1912, index folio 617) is stated by its inventor, Dr. Sabourand, to be of the proper strength for the purpose. You should not, however, lose sight of the fact that thallium acetate is in certain cases an heroic remedy, therefore caution should be advised in using the pomade. (3) The best course in the case of the young woman with severe headaches is to let her consult a medical specialist, so as to find out the cause of the trouble. We would not advise the use of a lead hair-restorer in her case, as the headaches are pretty sure to be attributed to its use.

Retrospect of Fifty Years Ago.

Reprinted from "The Chemist and Druggist," March 14, 1863.

Unguentum Hydrargyri Nitratis.

26 St. George's Pl., Hyde Park,

February 16, 1863.

SIR,—Some years ago, my father and myself were bent on improving the Unguentum Hydrargyri Nitratis. We ran it through the whole gamut of preparation, making it with variable proportions of acid (nitrous and nitric), oil, and lard. We tried fresh butter, neat's-foot oil and glycerine, until it was determined by a committee of two that sufficient materials had been wasted in the pursuit of knowledge. I then, more by accident than otherwise, consulted that somewhat neglected work, the London Pharmacopœia, and found that by strictly following its directions, and by the proper management of heat, an unexceptionable ointment was produced. I can therefore endorse from practical experience the remark contained in your last number, not only that the college process yields a satisfactory result, but that with due attention to heat and specific gravity, no better formula need be desired.—Yours truly,

JOSEPH INCE.